Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Ex-Hyatt GM Issa takes reins at Palms Resort. **PAGE 2**

On tiny Rota, America is less distant than it seems. **PAGE 6**

CUC will not meet green energy mandate this year

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will not be able to get any of its power from a renewable energy source by the end of the year, as required by public law.

"We really have got to be realistic. Our financial condition is such that we can't be a catalyst right now just to go out and get renewable energy," said Antonio Muña, executive director of CUC.

Under Public Law 15-87, renewable energy must comprise 10 percent of the power CUC generates by the end of 2008. The renewable energy portfolio standard will double every two years until it reaches 80 percent by 2014.

In September, CUC had to cancel ef-

See CUC on Page 4

2 die, 2 hurt in car accident

A utility pole lies on the ground after being hit by a car early yesterday morning. Inset above shows one of the survivors, Joel Tagalikud, a day after the accident. Inset below shows one of the fatalities, Ronald Carreon, right, posing for a picture with friend Moneth Deposa at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa, just a few hours before the accident.

FERDIE DELA TORRE/REY BELGADO

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Two persons died while two others were injured, one critically, when their car slammed into a power pole in front of the Joeten Kiyu Public Library in Susupe early yesterday morning.

See 2 DIE on Page 4

Kilili to caucus with Democrats in US Congress

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Sablan

The Northern Marianas' first-ever non-voting delegate says he will caucus with the House Democrats in the 111th Congress.

Delegate-elect Gregorio Kilili Sablan, who traveled to Washington, D.C. on Friday in

See KILILI on Page 4

POLL RESULTS

Did you vote in last week's election for a CNMI delegate to the U.S. Congress?

Yes-**44**

No-**33**

Sunday, November 16, 2008

48 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Reign of Fire

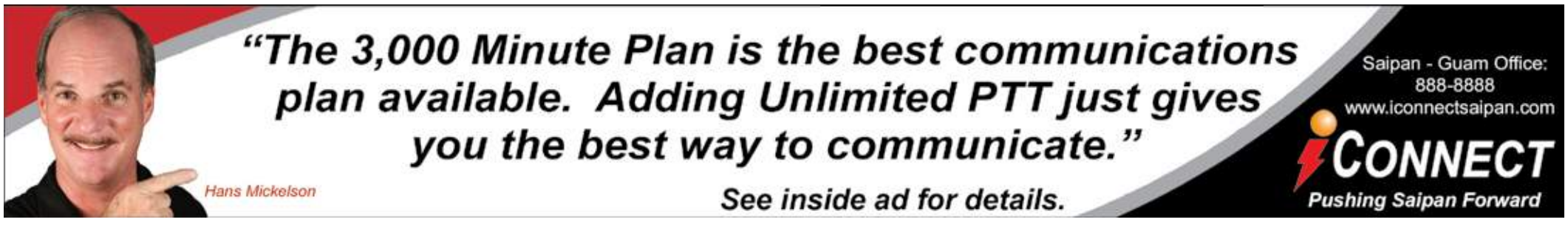
Californians endured a third day of destruction as wildfires torched mobile homes and mansions.

NATION...Page 14

'It Girl'

Anne Hathaway has finally been transformed into the it-girl of the moment, with a string of commercial hits to her name.

LIFE & STYLE...PAGE 20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Local

Ex-Hyatt GM Issa takes reins at Palms Resort

The former general manager of Hyatt Regency Saipan, Mustafa S. Issa, is now the new general manager of Palms Resort and Spa, Saipan, according to a statement issued by the resort's owners yesterday.

Issa used to work at the Hyatt from May 1996 to October 2001.

Issa was born in Egypt and moved to Australia after his graduation, and holds both Egyptian and Australian citizenships. He graduated from the Higher Institute of Commerce with a double major in finance and economics, and received a postgraduate diploma from Sydney, Australia, where he majored in marketing.

Issa worked with Hyatt International while serving in Australia, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Saipan, Guam and finally Osaka, before his retirement. He has held multiple positions in rooms, marketing and management.

Prior to his original move to Saipan, he held the position of Director of Marketing, Australia Pacific, representing Hyatt International, based in Sydney.

Issa retired from Hyatt after 34 years of service and 40 years in the hospitality industry.

Russ Snow, president of Palms Resort owner, United

See EX-HYATT on Page 4

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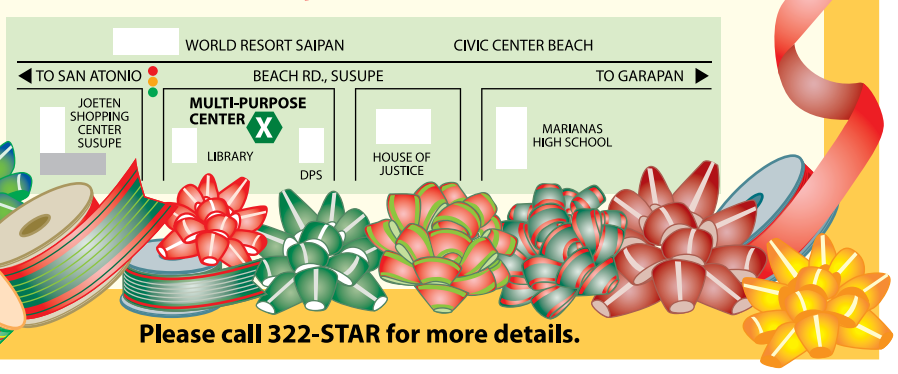

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Revised budget is $9.1M above expected revenue

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The Senate passed on Friday a compromise budget bill that allows the government to spend $9.1 million over its projected resources in the 2009 fiscal year.

The budget bill, drafted by a joint committee of House and Senate members, appropriates $172.6 million for government operations and other obligations during the period between Oct. 1, 2008 and Sept. 30, 2009.

The conference committee report says the proposed appropriation contains several compromises between the two legislative chambers that have caused the budget to exceed estimated resources by $9.1 million. The compromises include requiring the government to pay the NMI Retirement Fund at the actuarially recommended rate of 37.4 percent and eliminating the governor's cost-cutting proposals, specifically the so-called "austerity Fridays"—biweekly shutdown of government offices—and a no-work-no-pay policy on legal holidays.

According to the conference committee report, the government, simply by continuing to operate on the FY2008 spending plan, will already have overspent by at least $2.2 million by Dec. 1, 2008. This projected shortfall comes on top of the estimated $9 million deficit incurred last fiscal year.

The committee expects that additional funds will be available to cover for these shortfalls. One possible resource is the "cover-over" taxes that the CNMI expects to recover from the federal government later this year. The report says that any new funds received on top of the $172.6 million appropriated in the bill will be set aside first to address the deficit incurred in FY2008, and then to augment the resources for FY2009.

"The Joint Conference Committee agreed that the actual amount of revenues received in FY2009 will change, and therefore some latitude in the specificity of appropriations is justified," the report states.

The committee report also highlights the options available to the governor for controlling spending to avoid an operating deficit in FY2009. These options include pay cuts and a mandatory contract provision that limits government liability in the event of work reductions, shutdown, furlough or other fiscal austerity measures.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CAO seeks vendors for cultural show

The Carolinian Affairs Office, in cooperation with the Refaluwasch Genealogy Society, is seeking proposals for the development and operation of a cultural show to include Carolinian culture at the Carolinian utt in Garapan. Interested tourism vendors are invited to attend a meeting on Dec. 5, 2008 at 3pm at CAO to discuss requirements. For more information, contact CAO at (670) 234-6385.

Aerial survey on Farallon

The U.S. military would be conducting an aerial survey on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla today, Nov. 17, from 7am to 12pm. The location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla Training Area (R7201) on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to this activity, Emergency Management Office is reminding the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to take precautionary measure around this area.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(EMO)***

All five judges recuse themselves from handling the lawsuit vs Ada

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

All five Superior Court judges have recused themselves from presiding over the CNMI government's civil lawsuit against former Commonwealth Development Authority and now Board of Education member Maria Lourdes S. Ada.

The recusal has prompted Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja to reassign the case to associate judge David A. Wiseman under the rule of necessity.

Naraja, and associate judges Wiseman, Kenneth Govendo, Ramona V. Manglona, and Perry B. Inos all refused to handle the case for various reasons.

In his order issued Thursday, Naraja said that, in light of the Superior Court's current budget crisis, the appointment of an impartial judge pro tem is not financially possible.

Naraja said the parties have stipulated, under the common Rule of Necessity, that the case will be assigned to Wiseman.

Under the Rule of Necessity, a judge may not decline to hear a case due to personal interest if there is no other judge available to hear the case.

Naraja directed the parties in the case to appear before Wiseman on Dec. 4, 2008.

The CNMI government sued Ada for allegedly violating regulations during her tenure as CDA executive director by having her sick leave converted into vacation time and then later exchanging that unused time for cash, a move that gained her over $59,000.

Ada, through counsel Mark Hanson, asked the court to dismiss the lawsuit, citing that the allegations are deficient in both substance and form.

According to Hanson, the Attorney General's Office is inappropriately meddling in the affairs of CDA and that the CNMI does not have standing to bring the lawsuit.

Hanson said the lawsuit is nothing more than an attempt to embarrass and humiliate his client for no reasons.

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'Muchacho' Castillo agrees to be deported

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Roger C. Castillo, a convict called by Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo a *muchacho*, has agreed to be deported to the Philippines.

Castillo, 51, and his counsel, chief public defender Adam Hardwicke, signed a stipulation with the CNMI Division of Immigration, represented by chief prosecutor Kevin Lynch.

Under the stipulation, the parties indicate that rather than proceeding with a hearing to show cause as to why Castillo should not be deported, Castillo agrees to an order of deportation.

After being advised of the consequences of deportation, the respondent agreed to waive his right to a deportation hearing and to go ahead with the stipulation.

Castillo does not dispute that he is a deportable alien. He said he understands that an order of deportation is a permanent ban from the CNMI.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman granted the stipulation last Thursday.

Castillo is serving a prison term for stalking his former common-law wife. He was also convicted of domestic violence a couple of years ago.

When Castillo was brought before Govendo as a Family Court judge, the judge was quoted as calling Castillo *muchacho* and stating he wishes he could "get rid of locals" involved in domestic violence but that he can't because they're Americans.

Govendo had also stated he would recommend Castillo's prosecution and that he would make it his "personal journey" to make sure that Castillo leaves the CNMI.

When Govendo issued the statements, Castillo had no lawyer and his criminal case was still pending.

Associate judge Ramona Villagomez Manglona had said that Govendo's statements were in violation of the "principles of decorum and temperance that the Judicial Canons seek to promote."

Philippine Consul General Wilfredo Maximo had also expressed disappointment over Govendo's statement.

Filipinos generally find the word *muchacho* degrading as it means slaves.

REUNION MEETING
The 1974 graduates who attended Sister Remedios School and Mt. Carmel High School between 1962 to 1974 will be having their 35th reunion next year in the summer of 2009. Picture shows members of the class during a planning meeting held Friday, Nov. 14, 2008. For more information, batch members may call Tony A. Benavente, overall chairman, at the Saipan Mayor's Office; House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios; or Anicia Tomokane, planning and program chairperson, at the Zoning Office during normal working hours.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BELATED GREETINGS
Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Linda Ada, who celebrated her birthday on Nov. 13, 2008. "Belated happy birthday, Lola Linda! God bless you always." Greetings come from Christian Glenn Maglaya.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

KILILI

From Page 1

the hope of joining this week's briefing for new congressional members, has set out the reasons he has chosen to align with the ruling party in the U.S. Congress.

"It is time for a new generation of leaders to write the next chapter of our great American story. The Obama-Biden Administration and the Democratic leadership in the 111th Congress will roll up their sleeves and work hard to write that story for all Americans, and it is crucial that we have a role in that story," Sablan, an independent, said in a statement.

According to Sablan, he believes in the Democratic Party's support for economic development and fair treatment under federal programs of the insular areas. He cites the party's plan to phase out the cap on Medicaid funding and to phase-in equal participation in other federal health care assistance programs to U.S. citizens in the insular areas, including the Northern Mariana Islands.

Sablan also said the incoming Democratic Congress can provide "immediate temporary funding [to help boost the local economy] because they understand that prosperity for our islands can come from a federal-Commonwealth partnership."

Sablan also bared a plan to work with House Democrats on the new immigration law for the Commonwealth. He expressed concern about the law's "unintended consequences," which include the uncertain status of long-time foreign investors and immediate relatives of U.S. citizens in the Commonwealth under the federalized system.

"The federalization of our immigration system has brought about unintended consequences and we need to work hard in providing more time in the transition of the implementation of PL 110-229. At the same time, the incoming Democratic Administration is committed to pursuing tough, practical, and humane immigration reform in their first year in office. Many families in the Northern Mariana Islands will be affected by existing immigration laws and we need to provide solutions that are humane but which do not condone those who disrespect the law," he said.

Sablan also looks to the Democratic Congress to take the lead in developing alternative energy, which he said is crucial to the CNMI's economic progress and environmental health. "We must take full advantage of a Democratic Congress to ensure that our own needs for new energy solutions are included in the national agenda," he said.

On education, Sablan said, "The Democratic Party is committed to providing a world-class education for every child and has pledged to make quality, affordable early childhood care and education available to every American child from the day he or she is born.Our schools must also be equally committed to ensuring that our students catch up and keep pace with the rest of the world with a partnership with the federal government. This creates an exceptional opportunity for a partnership with the Democrats in Congress."

Sablan added that the Northern Marianas can rely on the Democratic administration and Congress to offer full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which he said will empower Americans with disabilities, including those in the islands, to succeed in school and be productive members of our community.

Support for the veterans, he said, is another area where the Democratic Congress can help the Commonwealth. "We need to do right by our veterans and their families who deserve our respect and gratitude, not just on Veterans Day or Memorial Day, but every day," Sablan said. "While it is great that there are efforts to open a medical clinic in the Northern Mariana Islands for service retirees and eligible veterans, we must join the Democratic Congress to ensure that every veteran has access to quality health care for injuries, both physical and mental, and require that health professionals screen all service members upon their return from combat."

"It is for these reasons important and crucial to the Northern Mariana Islands that I plan to join newly elected President Barack Obama and his Administration and caucus with the Democrats in the 111th Congress," Sablan said.

2 DIE

From Page 1

Haidee Garcia, a waitress at Godfather's Bar, and Ronald Carreon, a computer technician at I-Tech, were declared dead at the Commonwealth Health Center, *Saipan Tribune* learned from witnesses.

Rose Ann Bautista, a waitress at Godfather's Bar, was reportedly still in critical condition at CHC's intensive care unit as of yesterday afternoon.

Joel Tagalikud, 30, a guitarist of the band Fatjoy Slim, suffered injuries to the mouth and different parts of the body.

All four victims are Filipinos.

Tagalikud told *Saipan Tribune* that all four of them were in the car being driven by Garcia.

Tagalikod said he and Bautista were both in the back, while Carreon was in the front passenger side.

He said they had just come from Club V and were on their way home aboard Garcia's vehicle.

While cruising Beach Road, Garcia was reportedly crying as she was having problems with her boyfriend.

While approaching the intersection of Insatto Street near the Joeten Kiyu Public Library, Tagalikud said that Garcia suddenly turned the steering wheel to the right, causing the car to slam into the utility pole.

The strong impact caused the pole to fall to the ground. The damage to the car was extensive.

"She suddenly turned the wheel to the right. I then blacked out. The next thing I knew I was already in a hospital bed," Tagalikud said.

He said he was not supposed to ride in Garcia's car, but that he had forgotten his guitar and had to go back to Club V to get it.

Alcohol was possibly a factor in the accident. The Department of Public Safety has yet to release information about the incident.

Garcia and Carreon are the sixth and seventh fatalities of vehicular accidents in the CNMI this year. All deadly crashes happened on Saipan.

In July, a Chuukese man died when a vehicle hit him along Beach Road in San Jose.

Last June 22, a Yapese man died when his car ran off the roadway and slammed into a drainage bridge along Tun Joaquin Doi Road in Finasisu. Alcohol was reportedly involved in the accident.

On May 4, Grande C. Nonan, 41, a Filipino, died in a vehicular hit and run incident along Isa Drive in Sadog Tasi. Nonan and a friend were walking uphill along the shoulder of the road when a sports utility vehicle coming in the opposite direction hit him.

On April 19, a 10-year-old boy died when a bicycle he was driving collided with a vehicle in lower Dandan Homestead.

Last Feb. 8, a 65-year-old Chinese man died when a pickup truck struck him as he was crossing Middle Road in Garapan.

CUC

From Page 1

forts to obtain renewable energy sources due to flaws found by the Office of the Public Auditor in the procurement process.

The utility company needs to go back and revisit the idea of renewable energy, Muña said, because it can be a win-win situation. It not only helps the environment, it helps affordability as well, he said.

Unfortunately, Muña said, in accordance with Public Law 16-17 privatizing CUC, contractors conducting the bid evaluation must be U.S.-certified. But CUC has worked with the Legislature to redefine the requirements of the contractor. Once the law is passed, CUC can begin looking into the privatization process.

According to PL 15-87, CUC may aggregate the renewable portfolio in order to meet the requirements. Also, if it is determined that CUC cannot reach the portfolio standards in a cost-effective manner or because of unforeseeable circumstances beyond its control, the utility company can be relieved of some or all of the responsibility of meeting the standards.

Gov. Benigno Fitial has expressed continued interest in exploring the possibility of developing geothermal energy on Pagan, in order to offer more affordable power rates to CNMI residents.

The U.S. Department of the Interior has offered the CNMI a $220,000 grant to study whether it is feasible to build a geothermal plant in one of the islands north of Saipan, most probably Pagan. Fitial has appointed his alternative energy adviser, former USGS volcano expert James Quick, to lead the ongoing effort.

The Pacific islands have the highest renewable energy potential per capita, and renewable energy is the most cost-effective source for many areas in the Pacific, an expert on renewable energy said last month at the Pacific Climate Roundtable in Apia, Samoa.

Geothermal energy has a lot of potential, but initial assessments are extensive and can costs millions of dollars, compared to other renewable sources with assessments in the thousands, said Solomone Fifita from the Pacific Island Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Removable Energy, PIGGAREP.

"For geothermal, costs can number up to the millions. You need an interested investor to confirm there is geothermal energy there," he said.

Eleven countries in the Pacific are taking part in PIGGAREP, which aims by June 2012 to remove the barriers to widespread utilization of renewable energy. The Global Environment Facility provided $5.23 million for the project. The CNMI is not one of the areas taking part, although depending on funding sources the Commonwealth can be eligible, Fifita said.

Several Pacific Island countries have set renewable energy targets. By 2011, Fiji hopes to have renewable energy in their power utility company. Samoa hopes to have 20 percent of its power production from a renewable source by 2030, and by 2010 Tonga hopes 40 to 50 percent of its energy will be from a renewable source.

EX-HYATT

From Page 2

Micronesia Development Association, said: "We feel very fortunate to have Mustafa available to support our ongoing efforts to improve the performance of the resort, and help us achieve our ultimate goals with this property."

"Mustafa has a wealth of knowledge and contacts within the tourism industry and is exactly the person we need to head our management team," added Snow.

Issa said that he is very excited at the opportunity to manage such an excellent property and just as excited "that I am back on Saipan. Saipan always felt like home to me, and returning to our island was a very easy decision."

"With the support of UMDA, I am confident that we will continue to create a world class resort property that will be the best product within Micronesia."

UMDA chair Joe Lifoifoi remembers Issa from his previous assignments on Saipan, and noted, "Our entire board of directors is enthusiastic that Mustafa has accepted the position as our general manager, and we will support his every effort as we improve the Palms Resort and Spa for not only our guests, but the local community as well."

Hiroyuki Saito, who has served the resort as general manager on an interim basis, will return to his full time responsibilities as Director of Asset Management and Chief Financial Officer, at UMDA. ***(PR)***

House tries to give jobs to NMI immigration officers

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives on Friday passed a bill allowing the transfer of local immigration personnel to positions within the CNMI government, in a bid to keep them with jobs when the federal government assumes control of the Commonwealth's immigration system in June 2009.

The House voted 17-1 to approve the bill after meeting with Immigration Director Melvin Grey and his staff to discuss the uncertain employment status of the 68 local immigration officers. Rep. Tina Sablan voted against the bill because of concerns about the government's ability to fund the jobs being promised to the employees.

Under the bill, now bound for a Senate vote, the employees expected to be displaced by the "federalization" of CNMI immigration will be granted jobs, for which they qualify, elsewhere in the local government.

But even Grey and an immigration officer who spoke at the meeting Friday expressed doubts whether the government is in a position to guarantee lateral transfers.

Grey

"Can the government really afford to absorb us?" asked Vince Lizama, who has worked at the Division of Immigration for 18 years. "This fiscal year, probably yes. After that, what? Are we going to be furloughed like the others?"

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is now conducting a nationwide hiring program for immigration and customs personnel to be assigned in the Commonwealth. But while the law calls for special consideration for local officers applying for the federal immigration jobs, Grey says his personnel are not getting such treatment. The DHS, he adds, has been unresponsive to his suggestions and repeated requests for information.

According to Grey, less than 10 of the 68 local immigration officers have a chance to qualify for the federal jobs. The rest are automatically disqualified because they are over the age limit of 37 or do not meet the requirement of at least three years work experience, among other reasons.

Biz Aid reports good turnout at garage sale

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Despite the financial crisis, some have found ways to keep their business activity going while others prefer buying things at half their original prices. Garage sales are the right places for both.

Biz Aid Saipan Enterprises Inc., the company that launched the International Garage Sale in front of Gentle Brook Café at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe, reports a continuous influx of buyers of both used and brand new items.

Is this good turnout a result of the financial crisis, forcing more people to shop at garage sales?

"Maybe, especially since we are nearing the Christmas holidays," said Biz Aid administrative assistant Divine Sotto.

The Saturday market-style garage sale started six weeks ago on Oct. 11.

"The most total number of booths was 23 last Saturday. People keep coming to the area and booth owners are saying they have good sales every Saturday," said Sotto.

She also said the Saturday market activity has also helped increase the number of customers at the Gentle Brook Café.

At least two owners of three booths said their sales figures are good, saying, "maybe people want to save more for other things."

"Food is more important now than clothes or decors."

"We actually open at 10am but customers are coming in at around 7am," said Yoshiro Kishimoto, president of Biz Aid.

He said this market is patterned after the famous Akiba Street in Japan, where stall owners gather in one place to sell children's toys and products, primarily animation heroes. The scheme initially targeted tourists but more local residents frequent the place.

"This is what we initially planned to do but people prefer clothes and other things more useful to their homes, so we continue to do this," Kishimoto said.

Stall owners offer their customers brand new and secondhand items that include clothing, shoes, computer gadgets, kitchen wares, fishing gear, children's toys, office supplies, ladies accessories, etc.

Some of the items come directly from Japan. Five Japanese entrepreneurs have joined the Saturday market.

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On tiny Rota, America is less distant than it seems

By JOHN BOWE
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Editor's Note: John Bowe is the author of the book Nobodies: Modern American Slave Labor and the Dark Side of the New Global Economy*, part of which discussed the garment industry on Saipan.*

I was recently invited to a barbecue on the island of Rota. My host was Sen. Paul A. Manglo-ña, the island's highest-ranking elected official. The affair was low-key, like most social events on Pacific islands. The senator's extended family and about a dozen friends sat at picnic tables along the beach, beneath a row of ironwood pines.

Ten-foot topaz waves pounded the reef 50 yards out. The sky seemed in endless, improbable bloom: cirrus clouds here, rain showers there, patches of sunlight shafting down in between, creamy blues with mercury linings and the odd but frequent rainbow. Behind us, a plateau of outcroppings draped with lush jungle glowed with a misty, erotic, post-drizzle shimmer.

The spread consisted of taro dishes, ribs, fish with finadene (a sort of soy sauce, onion and lemon concoction) and koko, or pickled green papaya. The grown-ups drank Bud Light and tuba, a local palm wine. A gang of children, shirtless, ragged and fearless, leapt between tidal pools, hunting baby lobsters and

Bowe

squealing in delight with each squirmy catch.

What was profound to me about the scene was the disconnect between the stunning beauty of the environment and the nearly disconsolate mood of the adults. Pacific Islanders not famous for cannibalism tend to be known for friendliness, present company included. But I couldn't help noticing that they also seemed rueful, reminiscent in a way of the bittersweet Irish or the stoic, brokenhearted singers of Portuguese fado.

Sure, Mangloña said, Rota's beautiful. But island life is isolated. The perquisites of civilization are far away, the woes of underdevelopment constant and festering. During the Japanese economic boom of the late 1980s, Rota and its sister islands in the Northern Mariana Islands, a three-and-a-half-hour flight south from Tokyo, became Japan's Florida. The islands hosted more than half a million visitors a year, people who came to fish, swim, dive and lease property at skyrocketing prices. But when the Japanese economy stalled in the '90s, so did the islands. They've never recovered.

What was most frustrating for Mangloña was that Rota is a part of the United States. Wasn't that supposed to mean progress? (Rota's median household income is 45 percent below the United States average.) Countries like Japan and Taiwan had offered economic assistance, but the United States doesn't allow Rota to accept foreign aid. Meanwhile, the senator complained, Americans don't even know how to pronounce the locals' name for the island—not "Rota," as in Nino, or "Rhoda," like the old television show, but "Luta." The implication was clear: it's not fun to be part of a country that has never heard of you, and possibly never will.

With a population of some 2,000 people scattered over 33 square miles (Manhattan covers about 23), Rota and the Northern Mariana Islands are America's farthest-flung territorial possessions. (Saipan, to the north, with 50,000 or so residents, is the most populous and developed of the group.) The islands, 14 specks of land blowing north from Guam toward Japan, were claimed from the Japanese during World War II and voted in 1975 to join the United States as a commonwealth. Citizens of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands hold United States passports but lack voting representatives in Congress. They neither pay federal income tax nor vote in mainland elections.

Like many Americans, they earn and spend dollars, eat at McDonald's, embrace each other with rapper handshakes and drive monster trucks. But a large number live much like other Pacific Islanders—in a tribal, family-oriented society heavy on socializing, ukulele strumming, Spam, barbecuing, betel nut chewing and gracious, if shyly proffered, hospitality. For old-school islanders, conditioned by centuries of isolation, typhoons and a shortage of physical resources, life and culture quite naturally revolve around social ties, manners and relationships.

Rota, like most of the other Marianas, is populated by locals known as Chamorros and Carolinians, as well as Filipinos, Chinese, Koreans, Bangladeshis and a smattering of American expatriates who serve as teachers, nurses and doctors. I first came to the Marianas to write a book about slavery and labor exploitation of the foreign guest workers on Saipan. During three and a half years of sporadic, long visits, a refrain I heard regularly was that Rota was a great example of what the islands and their people used to be—friendly and unspoiled by the commonwealth's incomplete experiment with modernity.

Perverse as it may be to mention it, Rota's forlornness is its strongest attraction. When I arrived at Rota International, I was greeted by…well, by no one. And what I found quickly enough was that no matter where I went, I was alone—like, Robinson Crusoe alone. The island felt like my own private Eden. Hiking through the woods to one of Rota's several waterfalls, I didn't see a soul. I went to a huge cliffside bird sanctuary, overlooking thousands of nesting terns and boobies; one Filipino fisherman passed me, but otherwise the entire sunset was all mine. I spent days with a mile-long beach to myself, reading and loafing in the tidal pools, watching waves crash against the reef. The luxury of total isolation, of having (for once) no vendors, guides or fellow travelers, was palpable and euphoric.

The island's premier golf course, the Rota Resort and Country Club, was built in the mid-'90s for a reported $200 million and recently sold—for less than $6 million. An avid golfer friend told me that the links compare favorably with $200- and $300-a-game courses on the Pacific Coast Highway, with stunning ocean views from every hole. But when he plays on Rota, he's the only one there. The same elbow-room factor applies to Rota's world-class scuba sites, latte-stone quarries (pre-Christian ruins with multi-ton, hand-carved stone pillars reminiscent of Easter Island statuary) and a handful of beautiful fruit farms with stunning picnic areas overlooking the Philippine Sea.

News travels fast on Rota, and I found that island hospitality runs beyond the locals. The day after I arrived, I was invited to go spearfishing with an expat South African doctor and a teacher from Minnesota. I didn't know the first thing about it, but by the time we exited the harbor, vaulting over enormous swells and zipping along the shoreline in the late-afternoon sun past a reef break like a chain of exploding emeralds, I decided I liked it. We rounded a bend and were set upon by a school of dolphins, chasing us along leap by leap, fairly smiling.

About 330 feet from a cliff—with no anchor—my friends ditched the boat and dived in. They wore carbon-fiber superflippers about four feet long. As I paddled about in my piddly normal-person flippers, I watched them descend 30, 40 feet below the surface, hovering over passing schools of smaller fish. Then down they'd go, another 20, 30 feet, to surprise the

Continued on Next Page

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AGNES E. DONATO
Tourists swim in one of the tidal pools on a Rota beach.

predator fish inevitably trailing behind. It took a few tries, and some five-foot barrucada were narrowly missed, but finally spear hit flesh, blood inked the water, and up came the doctor with a three-pound parrotfish. Suddenly the fish kept coming: pattern fish, tataga, hangne; five pounds, eight pounds, three pounds, seven.

After half an hour more, the doctor pulled himself up to the boat, panting and laughing. "Did you see the sharks?" I think I must have stuttered, "Sh-sharks?" "They kept stealing my fish," he said, laughing. I asked him if he'd been frightened, and he snorted. "They're just like wild dogs. You have to hold your ground and hope they don't get stupid." (Whatever. You know, sharks!)

He and the teacher had brought up about 50 pounds of fish. No one had known where we'd been. We'd needed no permit, insurance or license. And this is what they do for fun on Rota, four or five afternoons a week. In a world with 46,000 visible pieces of plastic per square mile of ocean, I'd seen one piece of litter.

Creature comforts are unevenly available in Rota. There are only a couple of decent hotels, nothing terribly fancy, and a handful of serviceable restaurants. As my fisherman-doctor friend put it, "If you live here or even if you visit here, you have to be very self-sufficient or it just doesn't work." A visitor would do well to come with a supply of wine, cheese and snacks.

But if you're the kind of traveler who makes friends easily, a world of commercially unavailable delicacies awaits—abundant local fruit and virtually endless quantities of sashimi, coconut crabs, even venison from the islands' own deer species. And if you take the time and can afford a smile, it is inevitable that you will be invited to partake of local life.

Last year, Mangloña won another term (continuing his 20-year run), and a referendum was passed, allowing casino gambling on the island. Rota's voters hope that the casinos will bring soldier-tourists from the military base on Guam, 40 miles to the south, which is set to expand in the coming years. Perhaps the economy will reignite and the islanders will resume a trajectory toward American standards of living. But given the history and squalor of casino-driven economies elsewhere, this seems optimistic.

The last day I spent on the island, I visited some petroglyphs, cave paintings thousands of years old. The door to the cave is locked, and to get the key, you have to ask someone who knows someone who knows someone who draws you a bad map that's hard to follow. This is, of course, part of what keeps such sites so pristine and therefore fun to visit. En route to the caves, I got lost and approached a farmhouse for directions. A shy housewife, listening to Beyoncé, opened the door. When I asked her about the cave paintings, she looked dubious. "You'll have to ask my husband." She called out at the top of her lungs: "Edwin! Edwin!"

Edwin came from feeding the pigs, a pleasant, humble man with muddy rubber boots, lathering up with antibacterial foam in order to shake my hand. He looked at the map of the petroglyph site, which was, at most, half a mile from his house. This land has undoubtedly been in his family for generations. And yet at first, when asked about how to get to the caves, he didn't seem to know anything about it.

As I mentioned, culture—and knowledge—in Micronesia is socially oriented. Edwin's ancestors could navigate from one improbably tiny dot in the ocean using only the stars, wind and waves. Maps didn't make sense. The question of where a cave was didn't make sense either. It wasn't a matter of north, south, right, left, half a mile here or a quarter-mile there. Finally, he smiled. Of course he knew where the caves were. Right by his in-laws' house: "You go that way. Past the house of Cabrera!"

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Part-time scholarships at NMC

Available for public, private sector employees

The CNMI Scholarship Office is now offering financial assistance for full-time employees who want to enroll as part-time students for the Northern Marianas College's Spring 2009 semester. The scholarship is available to government and private sector employees.

Scholarship applicants must follow the same requirements as the Educational Assistance Program Rules and Regulations.

Applications must be submitted by Dec. 15, 2008, to the CNMI Scholarship Office.

The funds will be available on a first-come, first served basis, which means that the first 312 applicants who submit completed application packets (class schedule may be submitted at a later date) and who meet statutory requirements will be awarded.

Part-time applicants must submit the following to the CNMI Scholarship Office:

- 2008-2009 application by Dec. 15, 2008;
- Most recent official transcript;
- Copy of passport and/or birth certificate with valid picture ID;
- Acceptance Letter;
- Provide proof of CNMI Residency for 2006 and 2007;
- Submit Employment Verification showing full time employment in public or private sector;
- Must be enrolled for 6-11 credits and maintain the same number of credits; and
- Must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.25 on a 4.0 scale.

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Applicants have until Feb. 28, 2009 to submit supporting documents. But once again, it is on a first-come, first-served basis, so applicants are encouraged to complete their application packet as soon as possible.

Copies of the application form, the rules and regulations, and the memorandum of agreement can be downloaded by logging on to www.cnmischolarship.com, obtained from the CNMI Scholarship Office or can be downloaded from NMC's website at www.nmcnet.edu. For more information and to learn about other applicable requirements, contact the CNMI Scholarship Office at 664-4750.

For more information about NMC degree and certificate programs, log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

November 17, 1999

Bank of Guam tapped for educational loans

CNMI officials have begun talks with Bank of Guam on the possibility of extending government-guaranteed loans to local students who will not be able to receive financial assistance under the scholarship program. They are also studying a proposal to ask the Marianas Public Land Trust to invest some of its money into the education of government scholars in an effort to help defray tuition costs and other expenses.

NMC slams ex-BDC chief

The former head of the Northern Marianas College Small Business Development Center was accused yesterday of abuse of power and attempting to secure a contract for himself while still head of SBDC in connection with a project being administered by his office. Ramon A. Villagomez, chairman of the Board of Regents, made the allegations in his letter to Jack Peters, former director of NMC-SBDC, whose proposal to close down the center has drawn criticisms from the Legislature and the college.

November 17, 2000

Thousands flee homes due to tsunami threat

Thousands of residents fled their homes and drove to higher grounds in anticipation of giant tidal waves hitting the islands as CNMI authorities raised late yesterday two tsunami alert in the wake of a powerful earthquake that shook the Pacific Ocean. The warning, issued by the Emergency Management Office based on the report from the Pacific Tsunami Center in Hawaii, triggered confusion after officials lifted the first alert, then reinstated it a few minutes later just as when people were starting to return home.

Pepero-Kiyu to run as independent candidates?

More than a hundred supporters of Pepero-Kiyu gathered Wednesday night at an undisclosed location on the island, prompting speculation the camp may be plotting a comeback in next year's gubernatorial election. According to sources who spoke on condition of anonymity, the group met with top officials of the campaign committee to discuss the possibility of the two running as independent candidates in the November 2001 polls.

November 17, 2001

Use telephones wisely

On top of existing cost-cutting measures now being implemented by the CNMI government, Finance Secretary Frankie Villanueva is adding another one: cutting back on the bureaucracy's communication costs. Communication costs, he said, is one expenditure class that the government can reduce immediately.

Move over Harry, Saipan's 'potters' are here

Gone were the days when attending classes—like going to work—causes stress. This holds true, at least, to a group of students at the Northern Marianas College who attend one of the institution's most popular classes: Ceramics. Anne Sablan, 2nd year accounting and business student, said taking up ceramics class is a stress-reliever. "It's my time-out. I got into here in between classes to relax. I enjoy it very much."

November 17, 2003

Pagan ash elicits interest

Northern Islands Mayor Valentin Taisakan is pushing for the immediate termination of an existing commercial mining operator on Pagan amid interests by a Japanese investor to extract the volcano's high quality ashes. Taisakan, in a Nov. 6, 2003 letter to Gov. Juan N. Babauta, said that the local operator, J.G. Sablan Rock Quarry, Inc., which he said has been violating permit conditions including the non-payment of fees, poses a great concern as the government promotes "tremendous mining opportunities on Pagan" before capable investors.

Brown's 1992 legal opinion may influence her nomination as AG

Her own words remain that it might even prevail over her possible stint to head the Attorney General's Office. When Pamela Brown was Senate legal counsel for the 8th CNMI Legislature, she issued an opinion stating that a gubernatorial appointee or nominee whose confirmation was rejected by the Senate cannot be re-nominated to the position.

Solomons villagers demand pay after ship damages reef

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—Residents of Munda have detained a log ship that ran aground on their reef two weeks ago. The vessel was detained at Noro Port after it was refloated. They now demand ship owners to pay a negotiated amount for damage caused to their reef before the ship can be released.

Coordinator of Roviana Conservation Foundation (RCF) Nick Tula said the ship caused severe and extensive damage to their reef.

The Chinese registered log ship, Yin Hai, was heading to south New Georgia to pick up round logs at Eagon's log pond at Putagita when it ran aground. Eagon is one of the foreign logging companies operating here.

Mr. Tula said they will not release the vessel unless its owners agreed to pay compensation.

Meanwhile, government authorities at Noro said the ship's boson died as a result of the incident. His body was airlifted to Honiara in a chartered helicopter and cremated. Inspectors from the Roviana Conservation Foundation were also stunned to discover the majority of the ship's crew were very young.

"Some of them looked as though they were just 15 and 16 years old," Tula said.

"We were surprised to see them holed up in one of the quarters on board," he said.

An Australian marine inspector sent to check on the ship was understood to have compiled a report.

But Tula said the inspector played down the level of damage caused to their reef and was ordered to leave Munda.

Chairman of the foundation, Roddy Maebule, said they no longer take things lightly.

"These guys damaged our reef because of their carelessness. They must be made to pay. They cannot walk away with this," Mr. Maebule said.

He said the Australia inspector who was there was the ship owner's associate whose report will favor his boss.

Maebule said their reef is their livelihood.

"The damage done to it by this ship was extensive. In addition, the ship deposited toxic chemical on their reef when it ran aground. This caused pollution, which is detrimental to the marine eco-system as well as human health," he said.

The Solomon Star was unable to locate the ship's local agent for comments.

Tahitians take to streets over pension cuts

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Thousands of public sector employees in French Polynesia have taken to the streets of Papeete at the start of an unlimited strike in protest at French plans to cut pensions.

The strike shut down the courts, the met service and the customs offices in the port as well as at the airport which stopped all merchandise from being cleared.

And in an unprecedented move, the French High Commissioner, Adolphe Colrat, was restricted to his quarters and prevented from travelling to New Caledonia.

The High Commissioner held inconclusive talks with strike leaders.

Fishermen say they will block the port of Papeete tomorrow as several container ships are due to arrive.

The action comes as the French senate in Paris is about to finalise the reform which the French assembly has already approved.

The public sector unions as well as political leaders in Tahiti have called for the cuts to be put off for at least a year and to open negotiations.

The reform package has been revised and a new ceiling for pension top-ups has been proposed at 18,000 euros a year.

This is 10,000 euros more than suggested by the French government.

France says it no longer wants to pay up to 75 percent more in pension entitlements to those who retire overseas.

The top-ups were introduced in the 1950s as incentives for those working in the colonies.

Suicides rising in Solomon Islands

Depression cited as common cause among young

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Times/PIR)—Psychiatrist Dr Paul Orotaloa of the Acute Mental Health Unit said that suicide cases in the Solomon Islands have increased to levels not seen before.

Although the exact statistics were not available, Dr. Orotaloa says that "a very high number of most of these suicide, and attempted suicide cases, are among young people."

Orotaloa said that from what they could ascertain, it appears that most of these suicide cases occur either because of an argument or a misunderstanding, and others due to depression.

Orotaloa also encourages young people who suffer from depression to seek help. "One way of overcoming depression is by attending one of our awareness talks...or through a private consultation with an elder in the community or a church pastor."

According to research, suicide occurs in persons of all ages and backgrounds, but certain groups of people are at increased risk for suicide attempts. These include persons with a psychiatric illness and a past history of attempted suicide. Males are more likely than females to commit suicide, although attempts are more common among females.

Warning signs of suicide are varied. They may include:

Talk of, or preoccupation with, suicide or death; threatening suicide; writing about death or suicide

■ Signs of serious depression, including desperation; feelings of hopelessness;

■ Feeling no sense of purpose; loss of interest in things one used to care about; trouble sleeping

■ Withdrawal from family and friends

■ Reckless behavior, increased risk-taking, irritability

■ Making statements about life not being worth living, hating life, that the "world would be better off without me," and similar feelings

■ Increased alcohol or drug use

■ Feelings of rage or uncontrolled anger

Orotaloa has advised that if you suspect suicidal thoughts in yourself or anyone, seek professional help immediately at the National Referral Hospital.

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

The Seven Aphorisms

Pioneer Park in Pleasant Grove City, Utah, is home to a number of displays. The city's first town hall sits on the property, as does its first millstone and a replica of a 1930s log cabin. Also sharing the space is a Ten Commandments monument donated in 1971 by the Fraternal Order of Eagles. Not to be found on the premises: The "Seven Aphorisms." (Aphorism No. 1: "Summum is mind, thought; the universe is a mental creation.") And therein lies the conflict at the heart of a Supreme Court case argued on Wednesday.

The aphorisms are the guiding principles for the Summum, a small spiritual group founded in 1975 in Salt Lake City that embraces many of the tenets of Gnostic Christianity. Pleasant Grove City declined the Summum's offer of a monument, saying that it neither reflected the city's history nor was being donated by a civic group with roots in the community. The Summum sued, arguing that the city had violated the First Amendment's guarantee of free expression. The group claims that because the city granted a spot in Pioneer Park to the privately donated Ten Commandments monument it cannot deny the same accommodation to the Summum. The logical conclusion: Either the government allows no religious monuments or it must allow all.

Those supporting the city say that this defies law and common sense. The government is not suppressing the Summum's private speech but making legitimate decisions about which permanent structures are appropriate, they say. Public lands would be littered with impertinent, if not offensive, displays if governments' hands were tied.

Three years ago, the court decided—albeit on different legal grounds—cases that may be pertinent and could help resolve the Summum case without going to extremes. In one case, the court ruled unconstitutional the decision by local officials in 1999 to post Ten Commandments displays in two Kentucky courthouses. Such a "contemporary state effort to focus attention upon a religious text is certainly likely to prove divisive," the court concluded.

At the same time, it upheld a Ten Commandments display that had been on the grounds of the Texas state capitol for some four decades. Because the display was one of 38 monuments or markers commemorating Texas history, it was properly displayed in a "primarily nonreligious" way, the court concluded.

Pleasant Grove City would have raised suspicions if it had tried to block the Summum from passing out leaflets on public property. But the right literally to speak out in the public square does not mean there is a parallel right to erect a permanent monument on public land.

If the Ten Commandments monument were erected in Pioneer Park today, it probably would trigger criticism and possibly successful litigation. But there it is—and there it has been for nearly four decades. The Supreme Court has ruled that the Constitution does not require that all religiously tinged monuments perched on government property be torn down. It should now conclude that the mere existence of such monuments does not require governments to erect new ones.

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Excuse me! Where are we going?

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Imagine sitting in an airplane and the pilot announces he has no flight plan. He is just going to fly around until he reaches somewhere—where? Anywhere! Or imagine getting on the freeways in Los Angeles and just driving around until the gas runs out. No destination—no direction. Just anywhere!

This is exactly what we have been doing for several years. When the garment industry was at its prime, no one planned what to do with all the revenue it generated. We just spent and spent. When the industry began to falter, did anyone begin planning what to do next? When Japan Airlines stopped their flights to Saipan, what plans did we make to overcome the disaster? Has anyone drawn up a plan to fix the CUC problem? Has the Administration clearly shown us its plans and goals? Where are we heading? What is expected from us? Does anyone have any plans and goals for where we should be heading? Or are we just like pieces of wood floating in the ocean bobbing up and down with each wave aimlessly drifting?

I challenge the Administration to talk to us directly and explain its plans and goals so that we may better understand. I strongly urge the Governor to talk to us directly and frequently, not though his press secretary or brief news clips. We want to hear from him directly that he feels our pain and apprehension, and we want him to hear directly from us that we feel the pain also. We want to hear what plans he has for resolving our problems. In this manner we can better understand what is happening.

Once we understand the direction we are heading, I am confident we will cooperate better and even sacrifice to achieve the goal. Instead we now remain divided—the Administration in one corner, the Legislature in another, and we the people scratching our heads wondering where we are headed. How often does the Administration and the Legislature talk to one another? Do they respect each other and how do they act toward each other? When people are sincere, any disagreements are a stimulus to cooperative action. This is called the art of negotiation.

I challenge the Legislature to show us their overall plans and goals for reviving the economy. Almost daily they meet in committees and in sessions, but we get little report on what they are planning or what goals they have set for us. I realize that getting 29 people, some with different agendas and ambitions, to agree is difficult. But if one loves his country, he will put his personal ambitions aside and strive to heal his country's wounds.

I challenge the CUC to show us what will happen in 10 months after the Agreeko contract expires. There are only 10 months left before a major decision has to be made. Are they planning for it? What can we expect? I challenge any government agency to meet with us and explain what each of them has planned or what goals they have. Or are they just fumbling around in a darkened room?

In these trying moments, we need strong leadership that knows how to bring us together. I am sorry but I fail to see this happening. Yet I know that there are capable people who can do this. Why are they not setting the plans and goals?

After all, this is our island and we all are feeling the pain. We must unite and share our problems. Why is it that once we elect representatives, they stop talking to us? But during election time they certainly are talkative.

Unless we do some serious planning quickly, something awful will happen to our already sagging economy. We haven't really felt the economic crash that is taking place in the United States and in the rest of the world. But it is coming to our shores like a tsunami. Unless we plan now, we will be wiped out.

The U.S. government must be invited to sit down with us and help us get our house in order. They and we together must set realistic goals supported by plans. The answer is not to beg for more money. Throwing money after money doesn't solve any problem. Intelligent actions do. By bringing in experts from the United States, we can do realistic planning together. The United States can share its experiences with us. We cannot do it alone.

For example, why haven't we called in the Department of Energy a long time ago and asked them to show us how we can resolve the farce we are having at the CUC now? Is it pride or ignorance that is preventing us from doing so? Meanwhile we sit in darkened rooms even though we are paying over $500,000 per month to rent generators.

Leaders must explain what their plans of action and what their goals are. As a result, we the people will cooperate better once we are included in the overall plan. It seems that there is no accountability in whatever they do. Why do we accept this? Demand answers!

I try very hard not to be critical because I know that doesn't solve problems. It merely angers people. I am urging us to think and express our thoughts. But I have come to accept the fact that actions speak louder than any words. And the negative actions I see are disheartening. How can those actions be denied?

I am not criticizing any individual, but I am criticizing the system

See EXCUSE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

This summit's promise

By JAMES D. WOLFENSOHN
Special to The Washington Post

The writer was president of the World Bank from 1995 to 2005. He is chairman of Wolfensohn and Co., an investment and advisory firm focused on emerging market economies.

Saturday's meeting of the Group of 20 leaders is a landmark in the evolution of global governance, one that I hope will create an opportunity to address a number of global issues. We have reached this point due to the perceived impotence of our initial response to the economic crisis. That response was led by members of the Group of Seven: the old boys' club of advanced countries that has traditionally taken the lead in tackling global crises.

The G-7's dominant role in international affairs over the past half-century was explained by its collective economic weight: Between 1965 and 2002, it accounted for a remarkably constant share of global output—about 65 percent. In recent years, however, the G-7 began an evanescence. Its share of global output has fallen to 52 percent. By 2030, it is likely to be down to 37 percent; by 2050, to a mere 25 percent.

The flip side of this coin is the rise of emerging markets. The International Monetary Fund forecasts that in 2009, as the advanced economies sink into their first collective recession since World War II, 100 percent of global growth will be attributable to developing nations. Against this backdrop, it is inconceivable that today's global challenges could be addressed without the support of China, India, Brazil and other emerging powers. This is not simply a matter of fairness or generosity but one of efficacy and realism.

Thus the G-20 is the correct body to tackle a crisis of this magnitude. Its members account for 90 percent of global output and two-thirds of the world's population. It is diverse—with five countries from Asia, three from Latin America, two from the Middle East and one from Africa—and represents our rapidly globalizing world.

Western leaders must be careful not to slip into old habits in dealing with their new partners. The tendency to summon others to meetings or to see dialogue as an opportunity to educate others as to their best interests is a vestige of a bygone era. Instead, the West should listen to the expertise and concerns expressed by leaders of developing countries and treat them as full and equal partners, not as guests fortunate to be invited.

Behavior of this kind will improve the chances of a successful conclusion to the crisis talks. If, however, the recent history of global cooperation is anything to go by, achieving such an outcome will not be easy. Failure to deliver multilateral responses on key global issues has been a regrettable hallmark of the past decade: We have been unable to reach agreement at the global trade talks commenced some seven years ago at Doha; we neither reached a consensus on curbing greenhouse gas emissions nor designed a credible system for the enforcement of targets at Kyoto; we are failing to deliver on the aid pledges made at the Group of Eight meeting in Gleneagles, Scotland, in 2005 and are consequently in danger of missing the U.N. Millennium Development Goals. By no means is this list exhaustive; from nuclear nonproliferation to managing strategic oil reserves and food stockpiles, our efforts have fallen short.

Among these challenges, the financial crisis is unique in that it is unfolding directly before us: The foreclosures on our neighbors' mortgages, the plunging value of our retirement savings and rumors of sweeping layoffs are constant reminders of the costs of our inaction. But for two other of the world's most pressing challenges, the costs of inaction are hidden from view. The effects of climate change will be visible only in the future, when it will be too late to combat them, and the impoverishment of millions overseas is too far removed from our everyday lives.

Our immediate charge is to deal with the crisis we can see. But it is my great hope that progress in addressing the financial crisis will open the door for progress on the world's other crises, which, though less visible, are no less important to securing our collective future.

Free the GOP

By CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN and ROBERT M. BOSTOCK
Special to The Washington Post

Four years ago, in the week after the 2004 presidential election, we were working furiously to put the finishing touches on the book we co-authored, "It's My Party Too: The Battle for the Heart of the GOP and the Future of America."

Our central thesis was simple: The Republican Party had been taken hostage by "social fundamentalists," the people who base their votes on such social issues as abortion, gay rights and stem cell research. Unless the GOP freed itself from their grip, we argued, it would so alienate itself from the broad center of the American electorate that it would become increasingly marginalized and find itself out of power.

At the time, this idea was roundly attacked by many who were convinced that holding on to the "base" at all costs was the way to go. A former speechwriter for President Bush, Matthew Scully, who went on to work for the McCain campaign this year, called the book "airy blather" and said its argument fell somewhere between "insufferable snobbery" and "complete cluelessness." Gary Bauer suggested that the book sounded as if it came from a "Michael Moore radical." National Review said its warnings were, "at best, counterintuitive," and Ann Coulter said the book was "based on conventional wisdom that is now known to be false."

What a difference four years makes — and the data show it.

While a host of issues were at play in this election, the primary reason John McCain lost was the substantial erosion of support from self-identified moderates compared with four years ago. In 2004, Democratic nominee John Kerry held just a nine-percentage-point margin among moderate voters over President Bush. This year, the spread between Barack Obama and McCain was 21 points among this group. The net difference between the two elections is a deficit of nearly 6.4 million moderate votes for the Republicans in 2008.

In seven of the nine states that switched this year from Republican to Democratic, Obama's vote total exceeded the total won by President Bush four years ago. So even if McCain had equaled the president's numbers from 2004 (and he did not), he still would have lost in Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina and Virginia (81 total electoral votes) — and lost the election. McCain didn't lose those states because he failed to hold the base. He lost them because Obama broadened his base.

Nor did the Republican ticket lose because "values voters" stayed home. On the contrary, according to exit polls, such voters made up a larger proportion of the electorate this year than in 2004 — 26 percent, up from 23 percent. Extrapolating from those data, McCain actually won more votes from self-identified white evangelical/born-again voters than Bush did four years ago — 1.8 million more. But that was not enough to offset the loss of so many moderates.

Following the conventional wisdom of the past two presidential elections, McCain tried mightily to assuage the Republican Party's social-fundamentalist wing. His selection of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, whose social views are entirely aligned with that wing, as his running mate was clearly meant to demonstrate his commitment to that bloc. Yet while his choice did comfort those voters, it made many others uncomfortable.

Palin has many attractive qualities as a candidate. Being prepared to become president at a moment's notice was not obviously among them this year. Her selection cost the ticket support among those moderate voters who saw it as a cynical sop to social fundamentalists, reinforcing the impression that they control the party, with the party's consent.

In the wake of the Democrats' landslide victory, and despite all evidence to the contrary, many in the GOP are arguing that John McCain was defeated because the social fundamentalists wouldn't support him. They seem to be suffering from a political strain of Stockholm syndrome. They are identifying with the interests of their political captors and ignoring the views of the larger electorate. This has cost the Republican Party the votes of millions of people who don't find a willingness to acquiesce to hostage-takers a positive trait in potential leaders.

Unless the Republican Party ends its self-imposed captivity to social fundamentalists, it will spend a long time in the political wilderness. On Nov. 4, the American people very clearly rejected the politics of demonization and division. It's long past time for the GOP to do the same.

Christine Todd Whitman, who served as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from 2001 to 2003, is co-chair of the Republican Leadership Council. Robert M. Bostock, a freelance speechwriter, was her co-author for the book It's My Party Too.

EXCUSE

From Page 10

that lets this happen. How can we develop our future if we don't put competent people in the proper positions? Why do the same individuals rotate from position to position? Why aren't we using the young men and women who have come back from their college education ripe with fresh and innovative view points?

As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, why do we refuse to make plans and set goals? Why do we fail to put competent people in the right positions? Why don't we bring outside experts to help us solve our problems? Why do we fail to agree among ourselves on some of the basic ideas? What can we expect from the future if this is the attitude we insist on? Unless we answer the *whys* and the *whats*, we cannot solve any problem. So we drift!

Ironically, to solve our problems we turn to the government, the very one who created most of them. We demand more legislation to regulate our lives, not realizing that we are also giving up our hard-fought freedom in exchange. We demand more money for more social programs to revitalize our sagging social structures, failing to realize that reforms must start within each of us.

Real change must come from the transformed hearts and souls of each of us. The changes will not come from waiting for others to implement them. We must involve ourselves. We must not sit idly by and watch the administration and legislators quarrel over laws, expecting them to correct faulty policies.

When one looks back at major cultural shifts and social reforms in history, they were usually started by one person or a small group of people. We need to set goals supported by realistic plans. By agreeing on them, we than must work hard to achieve them.

Our motto must be: "What can we do for our islands, our community and for our future?" Political change alone will not bring prosperity or happiness unless we agree on what that change is to be. If we love this country as much as we say we do, then we will have no problem finding solutions and making sacrifices to achieve them. Think about it!

We need to get off our "buts"—excuses—and become involved in our communities. The solutions to our problems lie within each of us. Let our voices be heard. Let us set a course and work hard to achieve it. If we do not, we may not like where we end up. I ask again: "Excuse me! Where are we going?"

Letters to the Editor

Sex and racism

This letter is in reference to the recent discussions about racism. Racism is like sex. We all think about it, have done it, one time or another, but will undoubtedly deny it. In all fairness, may we all have the patience and virtue to treat one another the way we would want to be treated.

Antonio R. Cabrera
Chalan Piao, Saipan

Enough!

Where is our fair share of price reduction for gas? Price per barrel is now around $57 in the U.S. and Asia. When the price of a barrel of gas was at the peak of $140, we were paying $5.05 per gallon at the pump. Gas should be less than $3 per gallon now in the CNMI. There has been a 60 percent reduction in the price per barrel worldwide and therefore, there should also be a 60 percent reduction in the price per gallon.

- $140 x .40 = $57 per barrel
- $5.05 x .40 = $2.02 per gallon

We should be paying about $2.50 per gallon in the CNMI. The U.S. is paying less than $2 per gallon on average. While the rest of the world is experiencing savings, we experience suffering. Enough is enough! *Basta ma fababa y taotao. Pat hafa mon?*

Jeff Flores
Koblerville, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

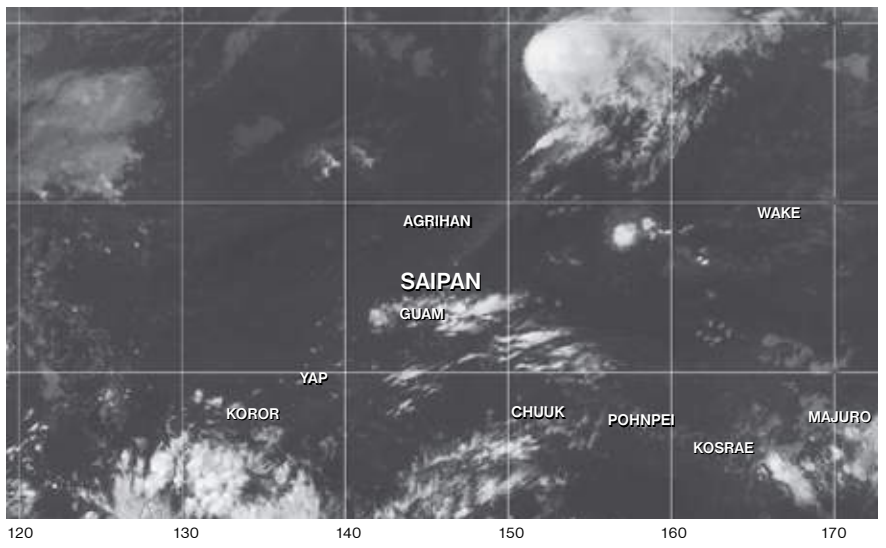
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲88	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲90	▼81
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲66	▼54
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲45	▼21
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼72
Honolulu	Showers	▲80	▼71
London	Rain	▲50	▼43
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲84	▼56
Manila	Partly Sunny	▲89	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲70	▼53
Miami	Sunny	▲75	▼57
New York	Cloudy	▲46	▼34
Osaka	Cloudy	▲62	▼48
Paris	Rain	▲42	▼41
Pusan	Showers	▲58	▼34
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲61	▼46
Salem	Cloudy	▲57	▼38
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼50
Seoul	Showers	▲46	▼27
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲58	▼49
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲50	▼34

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:30PM, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging winds into tropical storm Haishen outside of the discussion area northwest of Minamitori Shima is producing scattered showers between 22N and 25N between 151E and 160E. A weak upper-level low centered at about 17N146E and a weak surface trough are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in patchy areas within 40 miles of a line from 13N142E to 14N150E. This area includes Guam and Rota. A weak surface trough runs north-northeastward from EQ130E to 7N132E. Aided by upper-level divergence, scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are being produced southwest of Koror within a boundary enclosed by EQ130E to 6N130E to 5N136E back to EQ130E. Adjacent to this area trade-wind convergence and upper-level divergence are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the equator and 2N from 134E to 139E. This second area is south of Yap and Palau. Trade-wind convergence and a weak surface trough running from EQ149E to 10N153E are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in patchy areas between the equator and 6N from 143E to 153E and within 50 miles of 10N153E. Chuuk is located between these two areas. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south and east of Kwajalein and Majuro between 4N and 8N from 166E to 178E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:24AM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
11:54AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
5:08PM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
9:28PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:20AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:20AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:21AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:21AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:22AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:51PM	10:16AM
Tuesday	10:52PM	11:09AM
Wednesday	11:50PM	11:56AM
Thursday		12:38PM
Friday	12:44AM	1:17PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 11, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:25am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:25am	11:05am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:30am	6:20am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Saipan-Shanghai

OZ 608	1:30am	4:30am	2,6
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:25am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:15am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:40am+1	3,4,6,7

Shanghai-Saipan

OZ 607	5:30pm	12:30am+1	1,5
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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Business

Econ summit vows action—takes few concrete steps

By JENNIFER LOVEN
AP WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON (AP)—World leaders battling a dire and deepening economic crisis vowed Saturday to cooperate more closely, keep a sharper eye out for red-flag problems and give bigger roles to fast-rising nations—but kicked many hard details down the road for their next summit after President-elect Barack Obama takes office.

Perhaps as important as the modest concrete steps they took, the leaders of the planet's richest nations—and some of the fastest-developing—made clear their recognition of the world's increasingly interconnected financial architecture and the responsibilities that go along with it.

"There shall be no blind spots," German Chancellor Angela Merkel declared. "There is here a great common will to ensure that such a crisis is not repeated."

Underscoring how bad things have gotten this time, President George W. Bush, the summit host, said he had agreed to the recent $700 billion rescue plan for U.S. financial institutions only after being told the nation was at risk of falling into "a depression greater than the Great Depression."

Also significant at the summit: the inclusion of a far broader range of countries than the elite, old-guard group that usually holds such summit meetings.

Leaders from 21 nations and four international organizations attended the emergency summit. At the conclusion of talks that took place over two days, they released a joint communique that was modest in scope but high in hopes.

Covering eight pages and 47 action items, the document's overarching focus is to establish a series of new safeguards for the fragile and opaque global financial system. Nearly all the efforts are aimed in some way at better flagging risky investment patterns and regulatory weak spots before they bring down companies and then ripple dangerously through entire economies, as has happened in recent months.

MERGER APPROVED AP

In this July 14, 2008 file photo, A glass case containing products made by Anheuser-Busch is seen inside the brewery's tour center in St. Louis. The Justice Department has approved a $52 billion beer merger Friday, Nov. 14, 2008, between Belgian brewer InBev and Anheuser-Busch.

Q&A

'Spending...is how we fill our time'

By MONICA HESSE
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

In *Going Broke: Why Americans Can't Hold On to Their Money*, psychologist Stuart Vyse analyzes the economic mess we're in, and what it is about our brains' inner workings that puts us there.

Q. So, how did we get in this housing crisis/perilous tailspin situation? Psychologically speaking?

A. Basically it comes down to a simple sense of overconfidence about the future, which is inherent in our nature. ... Especially in the realm of mortgages. You have a big company offering you an enormous amount of money, and they say, "You qualify." There's a psychological process where, if (that happens), you think, well, they must think I'm good for it.

Q. Why don't we Just. Stop. Spending?

A. Because we live in a country where it's patriotic to spend, where our economy depends on spending. ... It's a habit, it's what we do for entertainment, it's how we fill our time.

Q. Why is this coming to a head now? Is human nature different than it used to be?

A. The marketplace has invaded our lives in quite a different way than it did 30 years ago. In that earlier period, when you were home, you were out of the marketplace. Today, I could buy a car without getting out of this chair or off this phone. When a purchase comes to mind, you must struggle with the fact that you could have it right away.

Q. You'd think all that choice would make consumers happy..

A. In fact, we live in a world where there are too many choices. When the dazzling must-have item appears, be it an iPod or an iPhone, if you have a credit card in your pocket, then you're churning inside with whether or not you should pull out the card and walk out with the item. That creates the stress of, "Can I justify this? Will this be OK? Will the future work out if I do this?" In many cases, the person who has no credit card, no ability to buy at all, is freer.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Pelosi outlines aid package for US automakers

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Saturday the House would provide aid to the ailing U.S. auto industry, requiring that the industry meet new fuel-efficiency standards, produce advanced vehicles and restructure "to ensure their long-term economic viability." Pelosi, D-Calif., did not disclose the amount of funding House leaders intend to seek for the industry - automakers have been seeking $25 billion in loans to stabilize their sinking companies. But she said the funding should come from the $700 billion financial bailout approved by Congress in October. "A restructured, competitive American automobile industry will continue to play a crucial role in our national economy and in the global marketplace," Pelosi said in a statement.

Iran wants OPEC to cut 1.5 million barrels

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran called on OPEC Saturday to cut production by a further 1 million to 1.5 million barrels per day when it meets in Cairo later this month, state television's Web site reported Saturday. Iran's OPEC governor, Mohammad Ali Khatibi, said the cartel needs to act to slash output because demand for oil has declined due to the global financial meltdown. OPEC, which produces about 40 percent of the world's crude oil, decided to cut production by 1.5 million barrels a day last month in response to a dramatic fall in oil prices from a record $147 in July to below $70 last month. Despite the cut, oil prices have continued to decline. Light, sweet crude for December delivery fell $1.20 to settle at $57.04 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange Friday. Diving prices have forced OPEC to plan an extraordinary meeting in Cairo, scheduled for Nov. 29, to discuss the plunge.

110 banks have asked for $170B under bailout plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—At least 110 banks have requested more than $170 billion from the Treasury Department's rescue fund, and many more are expected to have submitted applications before Friday's deadline.

The requests would come from the $250 billion the Treasury set aside from the $700 billion fund to purchase stock in banks.

Analysts at Keefe, Bruyette & Woods estimated that 62 banks have received full or preliminary approval from the Treasury for $173 billion from the Troubled Asset Relief Program. The government said Monday that American International Group Inc. also would receive $40 billion from the program.

That $40 billion, however, won't come from the $250 billion set aside for the banks.

Another 48 banks have applied for about $6.5 billion, according to the Keefe, Bruyette & Woods report. Several banks that have filed applications said they haven't yet decided whether to accept any funds.

The tally doesn't include requests from four life insurance companies that are seeking regulatory approval to purchase savings and loans in order to become eligible for government funds.

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Nation

LA fires reduce hundreds of homes to ash

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Southern Californians endured a third day of destruction Saturday as wind-blasted wildfires torched hundreds of mobile homes and mansions, forced tens of thousands of people to flee and shut down major freeways.

No deaths were reported, but the Los Angeles police chief said he feared authorities might find bodies among the 500 burned dwellings in a devastated mobile home park that housed many senior citizens.

"We have almost total devastation here in the mobile park," Fire Capt. Steve Ruda said. "I can't even read the street names because the street signs are melting."

The series of fires has injured at least 20 people and destroyed hundreds of homes from coastal Santa Barbara to inland Riverside County, on the other side of the Los Angeles area. Smoke blanketed the nation's second-largest city Saturday, reducing the afternoon sun to a pale orange disk.

As night fell, a fire fed by a sleet of blowing embers hopscotched through the winding lanes of modern subdivisions in Orange and Riverside counties, destroying more than 50 homes, some of them apparently mansions.

A blaze in the Sylmar community in the hillsides above Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley destroyed the mobile homes, nine single-family homes and several other buildings before growing to more than 8,000 acres—more than 12 square miles. It was only 20 percent contained Saturday.

It sent residents fleeing in the dark Saturday morning as notorious Santa Ana winds topping 75 mph torched cars, bone-dry brush and much of Oakridge Mobile Home Park. The blaze, whose cause was under investigation, threatened at least 1,000 structures, city Fire Department spokeswoman Melissa Kelley said.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency in Los Angeles. Fire officials estimated that at its peak 10,000 people were under orders to evacuate, including residents of the mobile home park.

AP PHOTO/MARK AVERY

A firefighter drags a hose uphill as his crew prepares to put out a wildfire destroying burning homes in Yorba Linda, Calif., Saturday, Nov. 15, 2008.

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Special thanks to Saipan Grand Hotel for hosting the NMC Information Session.

Election spurs 'hundreds' of race threats, crimes

By JESSE WASHINGTON
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Cross burnings. Schoolchildren chanting "Assassinate Obama." Black figures hung from nooses. Racial epithets scrawled on homes and cars.

Incidents around the country referring to President-elect Barack Obama are dampening the postelection glow of racial progress and harmony, highlighting the stubborn racism that remains in America.

From California to Maine, police have documented a range of alleged crimes, from vandalism and vague threats to at least one physical attack. Insults and taunts have been delivered by adults, college students and second-graders.

There have been "hundreds" of incidents since the election, many more than usual, said Mark Potok, director of the Intelligence Project at the Southern Poverty Law Center, which monitors hate crimes.

One was in Snellville, Ga., where Denene Millner said a boy on the school bus told her 9-year-old daughter the day after the election: "I hope Obama gets assassinated." That night, someone trashed her sister-in-law's front lawn, mangled the Obama lawn signs, and left two pizza boxes filled with human feces outside the front door, Millner said.

She described her emotions as a combination of anger and fear.

"I can't say that every white person in Snellville is evil and anti-Obama and willing to desecrate my property because one or two idiots did it," said Millner, who is black. "But it definitely makes you look a little different at the people who you live with, and makes you wonder what they're capable of and what they're really thinking."

Potok, who is white, said he believes there is "a large subset of white people in this country who feel that they are losing everything they know, that the country their forefathers built has somehow been stolen from them."

ACROSS THE NATION

Across nation, gay advocates protest marriage ban

BOSTON (AP)—Gay rights supporters waving rainbow colors marched, chanted and danced in cities coast to coast Saturday to protest the vote that banned gay marriage in California and to urge supporters not to quit the fight for the right to wed. Crowds gathered near public buildings in cities large and small, including Boston, San Francisco, Chicago and Fargo, to vent their frustrations, celebrate gay relationships and renew calls for change. Connecticut, which began same-sex weddings this past week, and Massachusetts are the only two states that allow gay marriage. The other 48 states do not, and 30 of them have taken the extra step of approving constitutional amendments. A few states allow civil unions or domestic partnerships that grant some rights of marriage.

Houston Zoo mourns death of popular Asian elephant

HOUSTON (AP)—An inquisitive Asian elephant known for being the largest of its kind born in captivity in the United States died at the Houston Zoo this week after suddenly contracting an incurable disease. The zoo held a memorial service Saturday for the popular 2-year-old elephant named Mac, who was remembered in anecdotes tinged both by sadness and laughter. Behind a fence and to the side, Mac's mother, Shanti, and his aunt, Methai, looked on. "We all loved Mac and he will live in all our hearts forever," zoo volunteer Toni Noble said, her eyes tearing up. Mac died Sunday less than 12 hours after first showing symptoms of elephant herpesvirus, which causes blood vessels to weaken.

North Carolina storm kills 2, destroys homes

KENLY, N.C. (AP)—As a tornado ripped through his North Carolina neighborhood, Curt Jernigan huddled in his bathroom, praying for the raging winds to spare him. When Jernigan emerged from the home, he met a neighbor, his face covered in blood, who pleaded with him to help search for his wife. She had gone missing in the confusion of the storm. The 41-year-old Jernigan agreed to help out, but said he knew the effort to find the woman alive would be fruitless. His grim thought proved correct. State police said his neighbor, Maryland Gomez, who was in her 60s, was one of two people killed by tornadoes and severe weather that swept across central North Carolina early Saturday.

Asia

Most deaths not counted in China tainted milk scandal

By CHARLES HUTZLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LITI VILLAGE, China (AP)—Li Xiaokai died of kidney failure on the old wooden bed in the family farmhouse, just before dawn on a drizzly Sept. 10.

Her grandmother wrapped the 9-month-old in a wool blanket. Her father handed the body to village men for burial by a muddy creek. The doctors and family never knew why she got sick. A day later, state media reported that the type of infant formula she drank had been adulterated with an industrial chemical.

Yet the deaths of Xiaokai and at least four other babies are not included in China's official death toll from its worst food safety scare in years. The Health Ministry's count stands at only three deaths.

The stories of these uncounted babies suggest that China's tainted milk scandal has exacted a higher human toll than the government has so far acknowledged. Without an official verdict on the deaths, families worry they will be unable to bring lawsuits and refused compensation.

So far, nobody is suggesting large numbers of deaths are being concealed. But so many months passed before the scandal was exposed that it's likely more babies fell sick or died than official figures reflect.

Beijing's apparent reluctance to admit a higher toll is reinforcing perceptions that the authoritarian government cares more about tamping down criticism than helping families. Lawyers, doctors and reporters have said privately that authorities pressured them to not play up the human cost or efforts to get compensation from the government or Sanlu, the formula maker.

AP

Li Xiaoquan, right, holds up a photo of his twin daughters Li Xiaokai and Li Xiaoyan near his wife Li Aiqing and Li Xiaoyan at their home in Liti village, near Runan, central China's Henan province, Sunday, Oct. 19, 2008.

US military: 5 Afghan militants killed

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A raid by coalition troops in eastern Afghanistan killed five al-Qaida associated militants and eight others were detained, including a militant leader, the U.S. military said in a statement Sunday.

A NATO soldier died in a roadside bomb attack in the south, the military said.

The detained al-Qaida linked militant is accused of assisting the Taliban with the movement and training of Arab and other foreign fighters into Afghanistan, the coalition statement said, without identifying him.

The troops conducted the raid in Paktia's province Zurmat district Saturday. Five armed militants were killed and eight detained, the coalition said.

The U.S. military said it will keep a military pressure on militants throughout the winter after violence by the Taliban and other insurgent groups spiked this year to record levels. Attacks are up 30 percent from 2007, military officials say.

More than 5,400 people—mostly militants—have died in insurgency related violence this year in Afghanistan, according to a tally by The Associated Press of figures provided by Afghan and international officials.

In southern Afghanistan, a NATO soldier was killed when a roadside bomb hit their patrol Saturday, the military alliance said in a statement. It did not identify the soldiers' nationality or the exact location of the attack.

Another five insurgents were killed in the southern Uruzgan province Friday after a firefight with the coalition and Afghan troops, the U.S. military said in a statement.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Ousted Thai PM Thaksin divorces

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) —Thailand's fugitive ex-Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has divorced his wife in Hong Kong, his spokesman said. Thaksin and his wife, Pojaman, who married in 1976, divorced at the Thai consul general's office in Hong Kong on Friday, spokesman Pongthep Thepkanjana said Saturday in Bangkok. "It is true that he has signed the divorce papers, but the reasons behind the decision are private," Pongthep said. The Bangkok Post newspaper cited a political observer as saying the divorce could have been aimed at protecting the family's considerable assets, which are mostly held in Pojaman's name.

US helicopters in SKorea move to Iraq, Afghanistan

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —The United States will withdraw about 20 Apache attack helicopters from South Korea for redeployment in Iraq and Afghanistan next year, the U.S. military said Sunday. The U.S. has notified South Korea of its plan to re-station one of the two Apache battalions in South Korea to make the unit available for rotational deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. military command in Seoul said in a statement. Each Apache battalion is comprised of some 20 helicopters, according to U.S. military spokesman Kim Yong-kyu. It was not immediately clear when the Apaches would be withdrawn from South Korea.

Myanmar sentences 9 more activists to prison

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A court in military-ruled Myanmar has sentenced an additional nine pro-democracy activists to 65-year prison terms, relatives and activists said Saturday. Their cases are among a string of recent prison sentences given to critics of the ruling junta. About 70 opposition activists, writers, musicians and Buddhist monks have been sentenced in the last week. The nine activists of the 88 Generation Students group, named for their part in pro-democracy demonstrations in 1988, were sentenced at a closed trial inside Maupin Prison in the Irrawaddy Delta in southwestern Yangon last Tuesday. Relatives of the nine only learned of the sentences Saturday when they visited them at Insein Prison, where they were brought from Maupin Prison to later be transferred to other prisons.

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTISIA POT PRINIPONEN ATKILONTANO PUBLIKO

Segun gi lai 15-2, I Depattamenton Tano, segun i LaiPubliko 15-2, ha anununsia planon atkilon tano publiko giya Tinian, Commonwealth i Sankattan siha na Islas. Todo man-interesao libre munahalom opinion `sino infotmasion pot i mapropopone na planonuson tano publiko. Maprebeniye lokue isigiente siha na infotmasion para benefision publiko tat komo:

1. I tineteka na tano publiko inembrarasa 300 hegtarias. Trabiha ti mamimide este na lugat lao i uminteres umadelanta este na tano publiko pot para u hatsaye casino hotel yan primera na golf course giya Piña, Tinian.. Kopian lugat este na sitiu gaige gi Depattamenton Tano ni libre maina nu i publiku.
2. I para u inatkilai era i Neo Goldwings Paradise, un kotporasion guine giya Marianas. I membron direktot siha i sigiente: Hyun Myung In, presidente/tresurario yan Kwidong Woo, segundo presidente yan sekretario.
3. I mapropopone na atkilon tano publiko manegosio as Señor Kwidong Woo.
4. I para u atkila i lugat para u usa gimahatsan fasilidat hotel casino, golf course yan otro siha na fasilidat.

   I tetminonestena kontrata para 25 años ya siña ma-ekstende talo 15 años.
5. Libre hao mamaisen kopianestena plano gi Depattamenton Tano ni gaige gi segundo bibienda gi Joeten Dandan, Saipan; offisinanTano Publiko giya Luta yan Tinian.
6. I Depattamenton Tano taya otro plano ha resibe gi uson este siha na propiadat publiko giya Piña, Tinian.
7. I Sekretarion Depattamenton Tano Publiko siña ha resibe todo ninahalom opinion yan materiat pot este na proposito uttimo gi Novembre 24, 2008 gi todo Offisinan Tano Publiku giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwlil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Tchúlúyól, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghiyghiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap. Me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélló.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap ye ebwe elebwughúw toria (300 hectares), iye rebwe tilifischi ghatchúw bwelle investors rebwe ayúúw leliyel casino me golf resort iye e ghil ngáli bwuleyil Pina mewóól Tchúlúyól elapeló me ngáre eghús. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ye Tchúlúyól ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge Neo Gold Wings Paradise Saipan Corporation d.b.a. NGP Casino and Hotel. Schóól Assamwoolul mwiisch (board of directors) mellol corporation nge Myung In Hyun me Kwidong Woo.

   Samwoolul (President/Treasurer) corporation nge Myung In Hyun. Vice President me Sekkretório nge Kwidong Woo.

iii. Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Kwidong Woo.

iv. Schóól akkilon nge ebwe ayúúw me mwóghutáágheli casino mellól hotel me golf resort me akkááw wiisal(fasilidóód).

   Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years), emmwel rebwe sóbweey ngáli bwal seigh me limoow ráágh (15 years).

   Pomwol akkilon yeel nge ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél faluw (value of the property).

v. Emmwel bwe tilighial akkilon yeel óubwe bwughil mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llol Dandan, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Piña, Tchúlúyól.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal schagh Nobiembre (November) 24, 2008 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyol.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

The Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent, under Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, to lease certain public lands on Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is about 300 hectares that has yet to be surveyed to which investor plans to lease for purposes of building a casino hotel and golf resort situated in the Piña Area on Tinian. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for review.

ii. The prospective lessee is Neo Goldwings Paradise, Co. Ltd. a CNMI corporation. The Board of Directors of the corporation are Hyun Myung In, president/treasurer and Kwidong Woo, vice president/secretary.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Kwidong Woo.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and operating a casino hotel and golf resort and related facilities.

   The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

   The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land at Piña, Tinian.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before November 24, 2008 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

World

Somali radicals capture town

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) —A radical Islamic group seized another Somali port town Saturday, consolidating its control over a southwestern region that borders the Somali capital.

Amin Adan, a resident of the port town of Barawe, said that fighters of al-Shabab took control without a fight because the government's allies left as soon as they heard the fighters were on their way.

"We don't know whether it is a tactical retreat," Adan told The Associated Press by phone from Barawe, 110 miles (180 kilometers) southwest of Mogadishu. Barawe is near Merka, a key port town with an airstrip that al-Shabab seized earlier this week; both are in the region of Lower Shabelle, which surrounds Mogadishu.

The steady and seemingly uncontested rise in recent months of al-Shabab—meaning The Youth —which the United States considers a terrorist organization, is a far cry from the situation in late 2006, when Somalia's U.N.-backed government rolled into Mogadishu supported by powerful Ethiopian troops and drove out radical Islamists intent on ruling by strict Shariah law.

The past two years have been a bloodbath as the Islamic fighters launched a vicious insurgency, mainly in Mogadishu, that has killed thousands of civilians and sent an estimated half of the capital's 2 million people fleeing from near-daily roadside bombings and remote-controlled explosions.

The fighters have seized most of southern Somalia - advancing to within 10 miles (16 kilometers) of the capital on Wednesday.

In Mogadishu, where the government is still nominally in control, Shabab fighters carry out public punishments such as lashings and stonings, conduct training exercises and present themselves as an alternative government.

Despite their advances, however, the Islamists are suffering internal divisions. Al-Shabab —considered a terror group because its leaders are allegedly linked to al-Qaida—controls the most territory.

But more moderate fighters from groups including the Council of Islamic Courts have also taken towns.

WORLD BRIEFS

Ship carrying 23 people seized off Somalia

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—An official says an armed group has hijacked a cargo ship carrying 23 crew members, including five South Koreans, off the coast of Somalia. A South Korean Foreign Ministry official said the cargo ship was seized by an armed group believed to pirates Saturday. The official declined to give his name, citing department policy. The safety of the crew members were not immediately known.

Iraq's Cabinet to vote on security accord with US

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's Cabinet will vote Sunday on a security pact with Washington that would keep U.S. forces in the country for another three years, a major step in efforts to balance Iraqi demands for national sovereignty with the security concerns of the two allies. The accord goes before the Cabinet, with the most powerful cleric in Iraq, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, signaling that he would not object to it.

Congo war orphan in nightmarish limbo

RUTSHURU, Congo (AP)—Nobody knows what to do with him now.

The small child with a bullet-shattered wrist was crying alone in a house full of corpses when he was found last week by a stranger fleeing a gunbattle between rebels and pro-government militias in eastern Congo.

The man carried the boy from the village of Kiwanja to a tiny hospital several miles away and the two- or three-year-old infant spent the night screaming and his days silent, medical staff said.

One week later, the boy's name is about all they know.

"He finally opened up and told them, 'My name is Eliya,'" said Francois Bahuga, a nurse at the main hospital in Rutshuru, a small town perched amid chilly terraced hills in the heart of territory newly overrun by rebels.

Eliya now talks timidly to some to other children. "But he still won't talk to us," Bahuga said. "He is clearly traumatized. He's having nightmares."

AP

Caretaker Peter Kasereka, 34, holds an orphaned two- or three-year-old boy named Eliya on Thursday, Nov. 13, 2008, in Rutshuru, Congo. The boy was found in a room full of corpses in a nearby town and carried to Rutshuru hospital on Nov. 6.

The tragic story is just one of many being told here after Congo's recent explosion of fighting began in August, displacing 250,000 people. The violence has shattered hopes the nation's first-ever democratic election in 2006 would usher in a peaceful era.

That vote was the culmination of a deal that had finally unified Congo after a 1998-2002 war ripped it apart, leaving huge chunks of the vast central African nation under the control of rival rebel groups and foreign armies.

Today, fighters loyal to a new rebel leader, Laurent Nkunda, again control large swaths of the east. And after a lightening advance in late October across the green valleys of North Kivu province, Nkunda's territory has expanded again. Rebels are now collecting road taxes, replacing town officials with their own and forcibly recruiting young men and children into their ranks, aid workers say.

Nkunda took up arms in 2004 and claims he is fighting to protect minority ethnic Tutsis from Rwandan Hutu rebels who fled here after Rwanda's 1994 genocide of more than 500,000 people, mostly Tutsis. In Congo, the two ethnic groups live among hundreds of others.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-GOV-018

Project Manager For Water Task Force Projects

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Proposals from qualified individuals for Professional Services for Project Manager for the Water Task Force on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The proposal package will be available on or after **November 7, 2008** at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan or by request faxed to (670) 664-1515.

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 PM, November 17, 2008** to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number: 670)664-2279.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to local proposers per PL 15-95 as further amended by PL 15-118. If preference is claimed, it must be claimed at the time of proposal submission.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"Project Manager", RFP09-GOV- 018**. One (1) original and four (4) copies must be submitted. For proposers within the CNMI, sealed proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply, at Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **3:00 pm, November 21, 2008 (CNMI local time)**. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **3:00 pm, November 21, 2008 (CNMI local time)** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or e-mail procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside of the CNMI, the proposal must be postmarked by the USPO (or FedEx, DHL, etc.), or Official Post Office of a foreign country no later than **November 21, 2008**, and received no later than **December 3, 2008 (CNMI local time).**

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Lieutenant Governor, CNMI

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY
Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center
P.O. Box 501133 Chalan Kanoa • Saipan, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 664-4550 • Fax: (670) 664-4560

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, hereby giving notice that the CNMI State Advisory Group (SAG), also known as the "Youth Advisory Council" (YAC) of the Criminal Justice Planning Agency will hold an Award Meeting on **Friday, November 21, 2008, 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M., Napu Conference Room, Pacific Island Club, Saipan**

AGENDA

I. **Call to order**
II. **Roll Call**
III. **Review and Adoption of Agenda**
IV. **Review and Adoption of Minutes** *(Award Meeting - August 23, 2007)*
V. **Old Business**
VI. **New Business**
- Chairman's Overview, *Edward Manibusan*
- Executive Director's *Report, Jerome Ierome*
- Awarding of 2007-2008 Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Grants
  - Title II Formula Grant
  - Title V Grant
  - Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG)
  - Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Grant (EUDL)

VII. **Announcements**
- Next Meeting

VIII. **Adjournment**

Should you need more information, please call the CJPA office.

/s/Mr. Edward Manibusan
Chairperson
CJPA Youth Advisory Council

/s/Mr. Jerome I. Ierome
Executive Director
CJPA

Publication of this notice was paid for with federal funds made possible by Grant 2006-JF-FX-0045 from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice.

Health & Fitness

Women of all ages finding strength in weight training

By JEANNINE STEIN
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Strength training is not just for muscle-heads anymore.

A study published in the journal Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise in September found that although older women gained muscle strength after an eight-week strength-training program, they showed little improvement in muscle power, or how much force is generated in a given amount of time.

The latter is indicative of having fewer fast-twitch muscle fibers which are engaged during sprinting, kicking a ball or getting up and down from a chair.

The study included 49 inactive women, half younger (18 to 33 years old) and half older (65 to 84 years old). A few served as a control group, not altering their normal routine. The training groups engaged in an eight-week strength-training program consisting of knee-extension exercises that concentrated on quadriceps muscles. The women did the exercise at a normal speed to increase muscle strength, then faster to increase muscle power.

The younger and older women showed about a 12 percent increase in muscle strength, which Dain LaRoche, lead author and assistant professor of exercise science at the University of New Hampshire, calls "a huge benefit."

But when it came to muscle power, the young women logged a 35 percent increase, while the older women had only a 9 percent increase.

Part of that, according to the study, could be that the strength-training program didn't provide enough stimulus. But LaRoche believes other factors are in play as well.

Kate Schmidt, foreground, leads an exercise class for cancer patients at the Wellness Community in Santa Monica, Calif. LOS ANGELES TIMES

Cold weather fitness

The late fall and winter months can make it difficult to continue a fitness routine that consists of outdoor activities. Colder temperatures and less sunlight require a realistic and diverse plan to keep you moving toward your fitness goals. These tips can keep you fit on the inside when it gets cold outside.

■ Anticipate a temperature change. Begin planning alternative exercise routines early. Plan ahead; don't wait until you are forced to change your workouts. A fitness routine that consists of running, walking, cycling or hiking may have to be altered during colder months.

■ Find innovative and fun activities that could take the place of outdoor activities that may have to be put on hold during the winter, such as dance lessons, spinning classes, mall walking or indoor rock climbing. Try different activities before the really cold weather arrives, so you're well-prepared if your workouts have to change. Keeping yourself active and motivated are top priorities.

■ Prepare your body for colder weather. Not everyone hibernates; if you continue to walk, run or cycle outdoors as the weather changes, it is extremely important to equip your body with tools to fight the elements. Dress in layers and protect your head, ears, face, nose, hands and toes. As you begin to warm up you can always peel back layers. And drink plenty of fluids. Although the weather is cold outside and you may take longer to build a sweat, staying hydrated is still important.

■ Go with the flow. Try to remain flexible and give yourself many options. Since the weather is beyond our control, developing plans for different scenarios can be helpful. Joining a health club, purchasing an aerobic video or teaming up with a friend who owns fitness equipment are three options you can use to complete your aerobic workout regardless of outside conditions. Also, remember not to be too hard on yourself if you miss a day—just get back on track as soon as possible.

Always consult a physician before beginning an exercise program.

Reduce your risk

By LINDSEY MINNEMA
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Diet, stress, exercise and exposure to chemicals may impact your chances of getting Alzheimer's or Parkinson's diseases, a new report by two environmental health advocacy organizations has found. The report—by Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Science and Environmental Health Network—is just in time for National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month this month. The key to reducing your risk for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's seems to be in leading a nutrition-conscious, active lifestyle. Here are some more tips:

■ Avoid saturated and trans fats, and fill your diet with fresh fruits and veggies. Get plenty of omega-3s from eating fish regularly, but limit your consumption of fish that tend to be high in mercury (swordfish, king mackerel, and albacore and fresh tuna).

■ Go ahead, have a glass. Red wine—as well as green tea—has important antioxidants. Caffeine may also reduce your risk of Parkinson's.

■ Limit your exposure to lead and pesticides. They are known to increase the risk of Alzheimer's and diabetes, which also comes with a risk of dementia.

■ Stay socially and physically active, and exercise your brain regularly with crossword puzzles, word games, chess and other activities that require critical thinking. These measures reduce the risk of cognitive decline as you age.

To see the full report online, visit www.agehealthy.org.

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Appearing for Petitioner
COREEN C. PALACIOS

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF VICENTE CAMACHO CASTRO	)	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0399**
Deceased,	)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**

TO: INTERESTED CLAIMANTS AND CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that COREEN C. PALACIOS, of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has filed a petition in the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to be appointed as Administrator of the Estate of Vicente Camacho Castro, deceased, and to determine the heirs of the decedent. The Attorney of record is Danilo T. Aguilar, Esq., P.O. Box 505301, Saipan, MP 96950. The hearing on the petition is set for December 16, 2008, at the Superior Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, at 1:30pm. All interested persons should appear at this hearing.

All persons having any claims against the estate, or against the deceased should file their claims with the Clerk of Court of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication of this notice.

Dated this 28th day of October, 2008.

/s/ **Bernadita A. Sablan**
Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 234-7859
Fax.: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,	)	**CIVIL CASE NO. 08-0364**
Plaintiff,	)	
vs.	)	**AMENDED SUMMONS**
SALVELO M. HESUS	)	
Defendant.	)	

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT SALVELO M. HESUS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Ilmwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susuper Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the complaint of the plaintiff Bank of Guam, and serve a copy of your answer upon **Robert Tenorio Torres**, attorney for Plaintiff Bank of Guam, at **Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950;** and in case of failure to do so, judgement will be rendered against you according to the demand of the COMPLAINT, which has been filed with the Clerk of Court.

So **ORDERED** this 24th day of October, 2008

/s/ **Bernadita A. Sablan**
Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 234-7859
Fax.: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,	)	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0358**
Plaintiff,	)	
vs.	)	**AMENDED SUMMONS**
ROSLYN C. PALACIOS,	)	
Defendant.	)	

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT ROSLYN C. PALACIOS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Ilmwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susuper Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the complaint of the plaintiff Bank of Guam, and serve a copy of your answer upon **Robert Tenorio Torres**, attorney for Plaintiff Bank of Guam, at **Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950;** and in case of failure to do so, judgement will be rendered against you according to the demand of the COMPLAINT, which has been filed with the Clerk of Court.

So **ORDERED** this 22th day of October, 2008

/s/ **Bernadita A. Sablan**
Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF HAWAII,	)	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0455**
Plaintiff,	)	
vs.	)	**NOTICE OF SALE**
SYLVIA ARRIOLA PE and RENATO S. PE,	)	
Defendant.	)	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Amended Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 5, 2008, I will sell, at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: EA 415-3 NEW-3, (formerly part of EA 415-3 NEW, which was part of original EA 415), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2026/89, the original of which was recorded 07 DEC 88 as Document No. 88-3910 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on 5th of December, 2008, at the hour of 3:00p.m. , at the Carlsmith Ball LLP, Carlsmith Building, Capitol Hill, Isa Drive, P.O. Box 5241, Saipan, MP 96950-5241. The sale will be opened to general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated: Saipan, MP, November 7, 2008.

/s/ Vincent J. Seman
Attorneys for Plaintiff

VICENTE T. SALAS
Law Office of Vicente T. Salas
2nd Floor, UIU Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

F. MATTHEW SMITH
Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC
2nd Floor, UIU Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,	)	Civil Action No. 04-0482A
Plaintiff,	)	
vs.	)	**NOTICE OF AUCTION**
PLASTAG ENTERPRISES, INC., the ESTATE OF PLASIDO M. TAGABUEL, DORIS TAGABUEL, ARLENE I. TAGABUEL, and JOHN HENRY I. TAGABUEL,	)	
Defendants.	)	

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Plastag Enterprises, Inc., the Estate of Plasido M. Tagabuel, Doris Tagabuel, Arlene I. Tagabuel, and John Henry I. Tagabuel in the following described, real property situated in the CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 010 G 12, (formerly part of Lot 010 G 11, formerly part of Lot 010 G 04, formerly part of original Lot 010 G 02) as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 010 G 03, the original of which was recorded 09 Nov 93 as Document No. 93-3937 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.;

Lot No. 018 E 69, (formerly part of Lot 018 E 06, Lot 018 E 07, and Lot 018 E 65) as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 018 E 05, the original of which was recorded 06 OCT 92 as Document No. 92-3227 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.;

and
Lot 2003-4-2, (formerly part of Lot 2003-4-R1, formerly part of Lot 2003-4, formerly part Lot 2004-R2, formerly part of Lot 2003 REM, formerly part of original 2003, TD 771) as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2110/88, the original of which was recorded 11 May 88 as Document No. 88-1525 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, November 28, 2008,** subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
   a.) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
   b.) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c.) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Oscar C. Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. **Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Plastag Enterprises, Inc., the Estate of Plasido M. Tagabuel, Doris Tagabuel, Arlene I. Tagabuel, and John Henry I. Tagabuel in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.**

Dated this 20th day of October 2008.

/S/ **SANTIAGO F. TUDELA, COMMISSIONER**
Department of Public Safety

Life & Style

Advice and dissent: Obama reaches out to ex-rivals

By [illegible]VIN WOODWA[illegible]
ASS[illegible]ATED PRESS WRIT[illegible]

Presidents typically say they want to be surrounded by strong-willed people who have the courage to disagree with them. President-elect Barack Obama, reaching out to Hillary Rodham Clinton and Republicans, actually might mean it.

Abraham Lincoln meant it. He appointed his bitter adversaries to crucial posts, choosing as war secretary a man who had called him a "long-armed ape" who "does not know anything and can do you no good."

You could say his Cabinet meetings were frank and open.

Richard Nixon didn't mean it.

"I don't want a government of yes-men," he declared. But among all the president's men, those who said no did so at their peril. He went down a path of destruction in the company of sycophants.

It so happens that Obama and New York Sen. Clinton share a reverence for "Team of Rivals," Doris Kearns Goodwin's book about how Lincoln brought foes into his fold. Clinton listed it during the campaign as the last book she had read. Obama, clearly a student of Lincoln, spoke of it several times.

Now past could be prologue.

Obama is considering Clinton for secretary of state or another senior position, meeting John McCain on Monday to see how his Republican presidential rival might help him in the Senate, and sizing up one-time opponents in both parties for potential recruitment. He made one Democratic presidential opponent, Delaware Sen. Joe Biden, his running mate.

"I think it reflects a great inner strength on Obama's part that he is seriously considering creating a team of rivals as Lincoln did," Goodwin told The Associated Press on Friday.

"By surrounding himself with people who bring different perspectives, he will increase his options, and by dissenting views and hearing his ability to speak empathically to people on different sides of each issue. The challenge, of course, is to ensure that the discussions do not become paralyzing, and that when a decision is made the inner circle accepts that the time for debate is over," she said.

During the bitter primary campaign, Clinton dismissed Obama as a neophyte who could not be trusted to handle crises and who had not done much more in politics than make fancy speeches. Obama sniffed that "you're likable enough, Hillary."

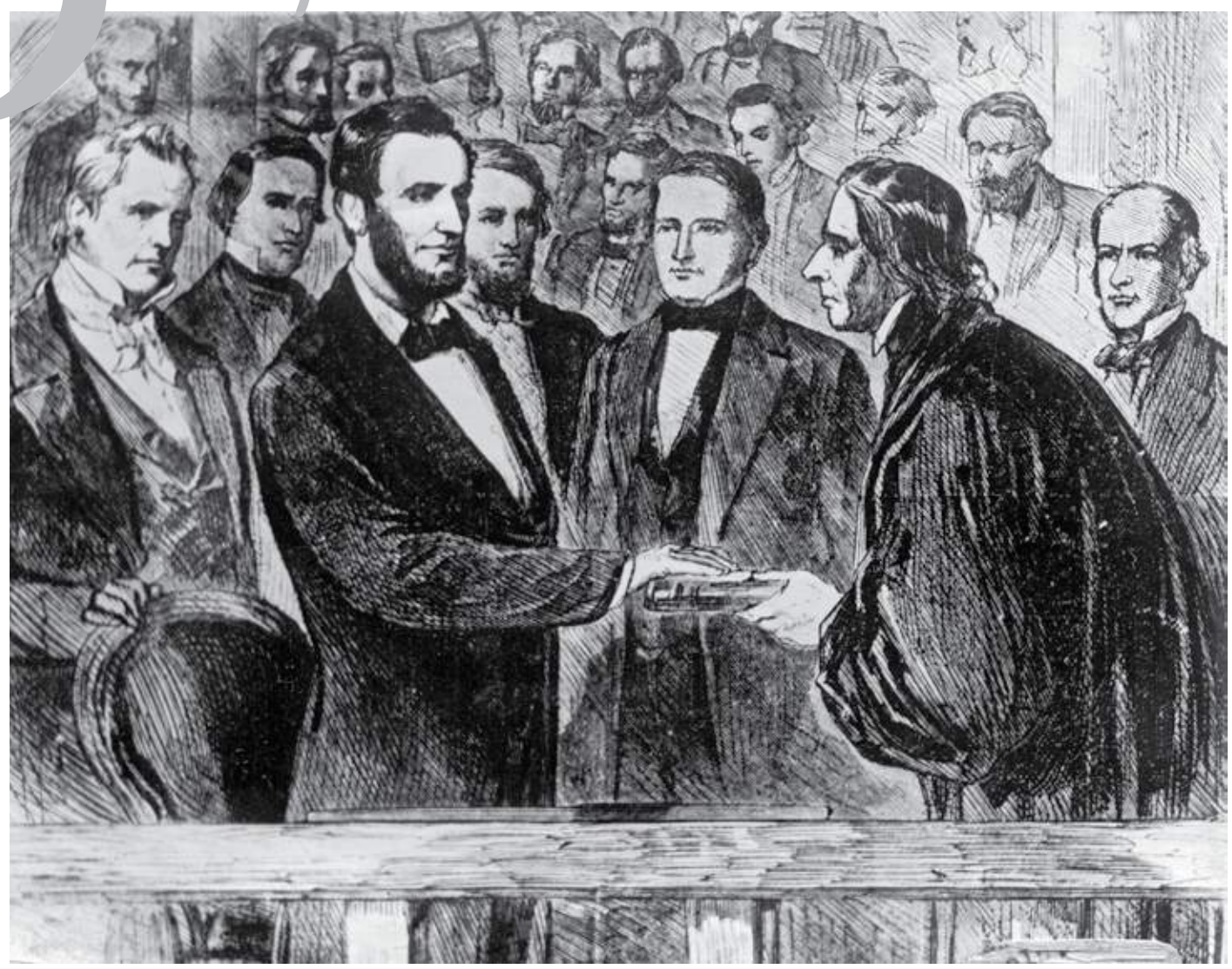
Yet she strongly supported Obama in the general campaign, not unlike William Henry Seward, the Hillary Clinton of his day.

Seward, the front-runner in the race for the 1860 Republican nomination, was so confident of taking the prize that he went on an eight-month tour of Europe a year earlier, only to see Lincoln vanquish him. Lincoln buried animosities and made him secretary of state.

Lincoln also enlisted Democrat Edwin Stanton as his second war secretary, despite being humiliated by Stanton years earlier when they worked together as trial lawyers. Salmon P. Chase, a constant critic of Lincoln and another Republican rival, became his treasury secretary. Other rivals were put in the Cabinet, too.

Lincoln's reasoning: "We needed the strongest men. These were the very strongest men. I had no right to deprive the country of their services."

None of this has been lost on Obama, who said in May that Lincoln's inclusion of former foes "has to be the approach that one takes."



AP

This photograph of a painting shows the second inauguration of Abraham Lincoln as he takes the oath of office as the 16th president of the United States in front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington March 4, 1865. The oath is administered by Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase, a former rival of Lincoln and the former Secretary of the Treasury.

At the time, he said he would consider McCain for the Cabinet if that made sense. Now, aides for both men say such a move is not in the works but they will seek other ways to cooperate.

To be sure, the pledge to build a strong and politically diverse Cabinet of people who will not be cowed by the president and his aides is made in one election after another. It usually has all the staying power of a New Year's resolution.

Michael Nelson, in his "Guide to the Presidency," noted that Jimmy Carter promised: "There will never be an instance while I am in office where the members of the White House staff dominate or act in a superior position to the members of the Cabinet."

That didn't last long. Carter met weekly with his Cabinet in his first year, every two weeks in his second, monthly in his third and only sporadically in his fourth, Nelson calculated, tracing a typical pattern of good intentions lost in the wind.

Walter Hickel, Nixon's interior secretary, thought the president valued his contrary views "because, to me, an adversary in an organization is a valuable asset." Not to Nixon.

Hickel came to realize Nixon "considered an adversary an enemy." The two particularly disagreed over the Alaskan pipeline—the secretary wanted to protect wilderness lands coveted by the oil companies.

During one testy meeting, he asked Nixon whether he should leave his administration. "He jumped from his chair, very hurried and agitated," Hickel recalled. "He said, 'That's one option we hadn't considered.'" A week later, Hickel was fired.

Goodwin says a true team of rivals is exceptionally difficult to make work in these days of hyperpartisanship, scandal-hungry blogs and raw feelings between parties and factions of the same party from the often nasty campaign. Disharmony in Lincoln's Cabinet was largely kept inside the meetings, exposed years later in memoirs, and that's not how the world works anymore.

Still, she said the even-keeled Obama displayed a temperament in the campaign that could help him pull it off.

"And I believe the country would respond with great enthusiasm, recognizing the great contrast to recent times."

Obama invited dissent in his election night victory speech, promising, "I will listen to you, especially when we disagree."

It remains to be seen whether he wants naysaying of the kind delivered by Stanton, who served as Democrat James Buchanan's attorney general in one of the few instances in history when a Cabinet member from one party has gone on to serve a president of the other party in the succeeding administration.

"You are sleeping on a volcano," he warned Buchanan in the lead-up to the Civil War. Without prompt action, "you will be the last president of the United States."

He was no yes-man.

Online King video gets more than 1 million hits

NEW YORK (AP)—Stephen King is a video star.

The animated video adaptation of the horror master's short story "N." has been viewed more than a 1 million times on the Internet and on mobile phones since its release in July, according to publisher Simon & Schuster. King has well demonstrated his digital appeal before; his e-novella "Riding the Bullet" was a sensation in the early years of the Internet.

"Stephen King has once again lured his readers to try a new way to enjoy a story," Susan Moldow, executive vice president and publisher of Scribner, a division of Simon & Schuster, said Thursday in a statement.

The print version of King's short story, in which a psychiatrist fatally absorbs the madness of one of his patients, is included in the collection "Just After Sunset," released this week.

AP

This photo released by Simon & Schuster shows a scene from Stephen King's online video adaptation of "N."

A gem from the night for 'Diamonds'

THE WASHINGTON POST

At Abbey Road studio during the night in 1967 in which the Beatles recorded "Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds." George Martin, left, Neil Aspinall, John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

THE WASHINGTON POST

George Harrison, Ringo Starr and John Lennon, from the book "Kaleidoscope Eyes: A Day in the Life of Sgt. Pepper," photos by Henry Grossman.

By PAUL RICHARD
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—While the Beatles were recording *Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds* for *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* in 1967, Henry Grossman was with them in the studio on Abbey Road, shooting in black-and-white for *Time*. The recording started at 8 p.m. and lasted until after midnight, so Grossman had time to take many pictures. *Kaleidoscope Eyes: A Day in the Life of Sgt. Pepper*, his new, $495 limited-edition (1,967 copies) slip-cased photo book, reproduces 250 in chronological order.

Excerpted from an interview with Grossman:

I wasn't a fan. Rock-and-roll wasn't my music. They let me in because they knew me. We were friends.

I'd photographed them in Atlantic City on assignment for the Daily Mail. *When they went on Ed Sullivan I was in the balcony. We went to Austria together. And to Nassau, when they were shooting "Help!"*

I'm a singer, too, a tenor. (I was in Grand Hotel *on Broadway, and sang for two years at the Met.) But I wasn't their kind of singer. When we went to the beach, and I'd break into* Oh, What a Beautiful Morning, *they'd tease me about my voice.*

Once George was searching for a word and I said, "Why don't you get a thesaurus and look it up?" and he said, "What's a thesaurus?" so I went out and bought him one. He's used it a lot. He said so in an interview.

In those days I traveled often. I covered Churchill's funeral, and the wedding of Liz Taylor and Richard Burton, and every time I was in London I'd look up the Beatles. Which wasn't easy. Everyone was pestering them. They were always changing their telephones. You had to somehow get the number-du-jour.

Once in Wales, when they were with the maharishi and the house was surrounded by press, John saw me in the scrub, and opened the door and pulled me in, and when the press started yelling, he said: "Henry travels the world with us. He's our friend. If you were our friend you could come in, too."

The pictures aren't posed. And those aren't costumes. That's the way they dressed. When Paul came in, he started playing something that he'd been working on, and by the end of the evening, you wouldn't have recognized the melody. It had completely changed. I didn't know how to follow what was going on. And didn't really try. I was enjoying them, not what they were playing. I love their music now.

'Today' show's Ann Curry struggling up Kilimanjaro

NEW YORK (AP)—Climbing Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro is no weekend hike, and the "Today" show's Ann Curry was feeling it on Saturday.

The NBC reporter was sent on assignment for the popular morning show's Ends of the Earth" feature, which begins Monday. The program's four chief personalities will embark on lengthy road trips to illustrate environmental stories.

"This is like climbing a Stairmaster for six hours a day with 20 pounds on your back," Curry said in a telephone interview from her tent following Saturday's climb.

She's hardly an experienced climber. The last mountain she scaled was half the size, and she did it while in college, said Curry, who turns 52 on Wednesday. She learned of the assignment only three weeks ago, giving her little time to train.

Her climb is plotted out so that if she does make it to the summit of the 19,000-plus-foot Tanzanian mountain, it will be shown during Friday's edition of "Today."

"To be honest with you, I'm not sure I'm going to make it to the top," she said. "But all the pain and suffering is worth it because of the incredible vistas all around me."

The mountain made famous in Ernest Hemingway's short story "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" was selected by "Today" because that snow is shrinking, said Jim Bell, the show's executive producer. There's concern that, because of environmental conditions, the mountain's glaciers could disappear.

AP

In this photo released by NBC, "Today" show's Ann Curry climbs Mount Kilimanjaro, in November 2008, in Tanzania, as part of the "Today" show's "Ends of the Earth" series.

"I miss my family," said Curry, whose clothes were clammy and wet from a rainstorm Saturday. "And also warm showers. And I could really use a stiff drink."

"Today" is sending Meredith Vieira to Australia to report on drought and Al Roker to geologically active Iceland. Matt Lauer, who already globe-trotted this spring for the "Where in the World is Matt Lauer" segment, will be exploring the natural beauty of Belize.

Message of Appreciation

We, the family of our beloved

Leonardo Deleon Guerrero Camacho,

would like to express our sincere gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to families and friends for your love and endless support during our time of loss.

Thank you for all your prayers during morning masses, rosaries, and day of funeral. Your kindness will always be remembered in our hearts.

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Anne Hathaway is Hollywood's new 'It-Girl'

By RACHEL ABRAMOWITZ
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

'IT' is that quality possessed by some which draws all others with its magnetic force. With 'IT' you win all men if you are a woman—all women if you are a man. 'IT' can be a quality of the mind as well as a physical attraction.

HOLLYWOOD—That's how English romance novelist Elinor Glyn defined the term "it-girl," a phrase that entered the public imagination with the 1927 film "It," based on one of her novels and starring the original it-girl, Clara Bow.

Hollywood is perpetually on the hunt for this elusive quality, this blend of sexuality and innocence, of materialistic chutzpah and good values, of swagger and sincerity, that tends to sell tickets. As the Cameron Diazes, Drew Barrymores and Gwyneth Paltrows age out of the ingenue role, a new crop of young actresses has emerged—a group that includes Amy Adams, Michelle Williams, Scarlett Johansson and Keira Knightley, contenders to the crown that for years belonged to Julia Roberts, perhaps the last female movie star who everyone agrees actually guaranteed attendance in the theaters.

At the moment much of Hollywood is chattering about pretty Anne Hathaway, another dark-eyed, dark-haired beauty, who was plucked out of relative obscurity by Roberts' own star-maker, "Pretty Woman" director Garry Marshall. Disney was explicitly looking for the next Audrey Hepburn when Marshall cast this New Jersey-raised actress, with one short-lived TV series to her credit, as the lead in the 2001 hit franchise, "The Princess Diaries." Seven years later, the 26-year-old Hathaway has finally been transformed into the it-girl of the moment, with a string of commercial hits to her name, and heat fueled by her unexpected but thoroughly wrenching performance as an addict on furlough from rehab for her sister's wedding in "Rachel Getting Married." Already, Hathaway is getting Oscar buzz.

And she's getting the sympathy vote. Ironically enough, there's often nothing that endears a star to her audience more than love's travails, a bad boyfriend or two.

Hathaway's Italian boyfriend of four years, Raffaello Follieri, has recently been sentenced to prison for 54 months for fraud. The double whammy of on-screen and off-screen despair has curiously combined to give Hathaway heft and maturity, making her more than just another pretty face.

Hathaway also has deftly managed the media circus. Although it-girls inevitably magnetize attention, it's not every starlet who's forced to explain herself to such august pop culture pashas as David Letterman, who recently grilled Hathaway about her personal life.

Dressed demurely in black, Hathaway tried joking, "As far as relationships crashing and burning, I did pretty great. Scorch that earth." But being Letterman, he wouldn't desist, asking her questions such as, "Was there ever stuff missing out of your purse?" She mostly laughed, except for when she hid her face in her hands, literally trying to shield herself from his comic barrage.

Vanity Fair offered up a pretty good vivisection of her jet-set love affair with Follieri, and it "made her more interesting," notes one top talent agent. "There is something about the poor girl, the ones that can never find the right love interest. It's part of the type, if you look back through history."

Indeed, although film historian Janine Basinger recoils at the thought that audiences enjoy seeing their cinematic icons suffer, she does note that a little glimpse of real vulnerability can burnish a star's allure. "There is some thinking that it makes all the women identify with her. Raise your hand if you've ever had a bad boyfriend. One of the appeals for a female star is a sense of vulnerability or being human, of not being greater than the rest of us, of not being detached from us because they're more beautiful or have better clothes. Historically, we like women stars like June Allyson who seem human.

"Our stars don't have to be perfect. They just have to be imperfect in a way we can tolerate, and that's unpredictable and related to how we see them on-screen."

Of course, Hollywood also appreciates Hathaway's growing box-office clout. Insiders peg her price per movie between $5 million and $10 million, and Hathaway's seeming imperfections dovetail nicely with what has become her commercial niche, the girl-power comedy. Most major female stars—including Roberts, Goldie Hawn, Meryl Streep (or Miley Cyrus or any of the tween stars)—have risen to glory with a devoted female fan base.

For young women, the greater fantasy is not finding a man but finding yourself, becoming the person you were destined to be. (That's the real theme of "Titanic," perhaps the biggest chick flick of all time.)

Fox 2000 chief Elizabeth Gabler recalls Hathaway pitching herself for "The Devil Wears Prada," which, at that very early stage in the game, didn't have Streep attached to play the viperous fashion magazine editor.

"She was absolutely committed to getting the role. She gave us script notes on the third act," says Gabler. "Annie was feeling that her character would walk away (from her assistant's life). She is in Paris, and has a changed perspective on life." The studio wound up using a version of this idea in the film, and ultimately cast Hathaway in the part.

More comedies are coming down the pike starring Hathaway, including "Bride Wars," a female version of the burgeoning bromance genre, about best friends (Hathaway and Kate Hudson) who inadvertently turn into battling bridezillas; "The Fiance," about a woman who wants to dump her fiance much to her parents' chagrin; and a sports-comedy in the vein of "Broadcast News" featuring Hathaway as an aspiring and definitively spunky sportscaster.

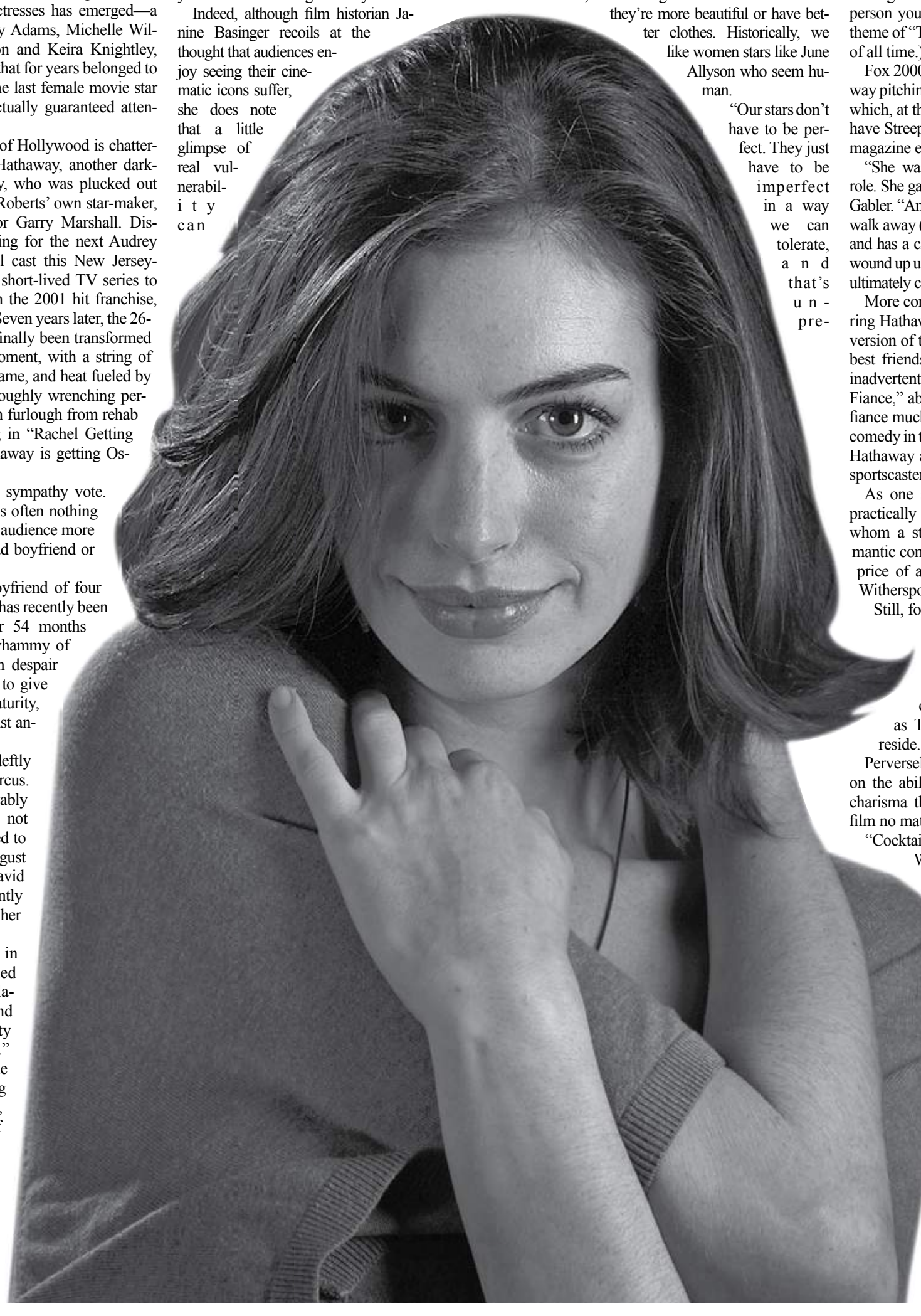
As one studio executive noted, Hathaway is practically the only twentysomething woman whom a studio would comfortably stake a romantic comedy on—and she's still about half the price of a more established actress like Reese Witherspoon.

Still, for some not already in the Anne Hathaway business, the jury is still out on whether Hathaway will ascend from it-girl to the next rung of stardom, the Mount Olympus of Teflon mega-celebrity, where only megaliths such as Tom Cruise, Will Smith and Roberts reside.

Perversely, Hollywood often judges star power on the ability to sell junk, to have such strong charisma that moviegoers will pay to see your film no matter what it is. Cruise made a hit out of "Cocktail," while Roberts, in her post-"Pretty Woman" glow, made a $100-million hit out of "Sleeping With the Enemy."

At the time, Roberts' it factor was so potent that audiences clamored to bask in her mega-watt grin. But Hathaway has more of a climb ahead of her before reaching those heights. Three weeks ago, Sony released its new Hathaway pic, the supernatural thriller, "Passengers"; so far, it's earned a meager $292,000 at the domestic box office.

As one agent sniffs, "If you're the it-girl, if you're Julia Roberts, anything you do would be news."



Anne Hathaway, 26, stars in "Rachel Getting Married."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Flour thrown at fur-clad Lohan

PARIS (AP)—U.S. actress Lindsay Lohan has been pelted with a flour bomb on arrival at a Paris nightclub wearing a fur stole.

Animal rights activists showered the 22-year-old actress with flour when she went to the VIP Room Theater in the early hours of Saturday with her friend, disc jockey Samantha Ronson.

The owner of the nightclub helped Lohan dust off her blue sequined dress and black stole before she posed on the red carpet. Ronson went on to spin tracks for a crowd that included reggae rapper Shaggy and "I Kissed a Girl" singer Katy Perry.

AP

US actress Lindsay Lohan, left, and disc jockey Samantha Ronson, center, shop at the Colette shop in Paris, Saturday, Nov. 15, 2008.

Julianna Margulies says she won't be back at 'ER'

NEW YORK (AP)—The final "ER" season is bringing back some of its original stars for guest shots, but Julianna Margulies won't be among them. She was invited, she says, but declined.

Margulies, who played nurse Carol Hathaway on the NBC hospital drama from its 1994 premiere, exited after six seasons. Her character left Chicago's County General for Seattle, settling down with Dr. Doug Ross, who had been played by George Clooney.

"I feel like I left Carol Hathaway in the best scenario possible," Margulies said Saturday, laying to rest speculation about her return. "I can't imagine making it any better than that."

In the farewell lap of its 15-season run, "ER" last week featured Anthony Edwards reprising his role of Dr. Mark Greene. NBC has announced upcoming appearances by fellow alums Noah Wyle and Eriq La Salle, who will also direct an episode.

Still a mystery is whether Clooney, yet another charter cast-member, will be back. He left in 1999.

Margulies, 42, departed from the Los Angeles-based series in 2000 despite a reported offer of $27 million to stay for three more seasons. She expressed a wish to return home to New York and pursue other projects.

She then, she has appeared in a number of films and TV shows, including a memorable guest role as a real estate agent with a heroin habit on "The Sopranos." Last spring she starred in the short-lived Fox legal drama "Canterbury's Law."

Margulies lives in Manhattan with attorney husband Keith Lieberthal and their son Kieran, who was born in January.

She recently finished shooting "City Island," a comedy that also stars Andy Garcia, Alan Arkin and Emily Mortimer.

Rod Stewart plays at Charles' birthday bash

LONDON (AP)—Singer Rod Stewart headlined a star-studded bash for Prince Charles' birthday party Saturday in England.

The pop star—known for songs such as "Do Ya Think I'm Sexy" and "Maggie May" - performed at a party given by Charles' wife, Camilla, at their Highgrove estate home in southwest England.

It is the third celebration in a week for the prince, who turned 60 on Friday.

His mother, Queen Elizabeth II, held a dinner party and concert at Buckingham Palace on Thursday. And on Friday, the prince was honored with a 41-gun salute in London's Hyde Park and a celebration with young people sponsored by his charity.

Comedian Rowan Atkinson, known to most as "Mr. Bean," was among the first guests to arrive. Others included actresses Dame Judi Dench and Joanna Lumley, as well as Camilla's former husband, Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles.

Britain's Press Association reported that Charles' sons, princes William and Harry, stayed overnight at Highgrove. It said their girlfriends, Kate Middleton and Chelsy Davy, also put in an appearance at the party on Saturday.

AP

In this Nov. 3, 2008 file picture, Britain's Prince Charles arrives for a meeting at the official government palace in Jakarta, Indonesia.

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Wanda Sykes says she's 'proud to be gay'

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Comedian Wanda Sykes says the passage of a same-sex marriage ban in California has led to her be more outspoken about being gay.

"You know, I don't really talk about my sexual orientation. I didn't feel like I had to. I was just living my life, not necessarily in the closet, but I was living my life," Sykes told a crowd at a gay rights rally in Las Vegas on Saturday.

"Everybody that knows me personally they know I'm gay. But that's the way people should be able to live their lives," she said.

Sykes, who is known for her feisty and blunt style, said the passage of California's Proposition 8 made her feel like she was "attacked."

"Now, I gotta get in their face," she said. "I'm proud to be a woman. I'm proud to be a black woman, and I'm proud to be gay."

Sykes' appearance at the Las Vegas rally surprised organizers. She was in town performing at the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino.

AP

In this Thursday, June 21, 2007, file photo, comedian Wanda Sykes, who portrays a congressional aide in the movie "Evan Almighty, " appears on the NBC "Today" television program in New York's Rockefeller Center.

Couple argues the long and short of wife's hair

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: How do I make my husband understand that how I cut my hair has nothing to do with him? I am 30 years old, and I have a full-time job and three kids who are involved in everything. Because I am always on the go, I need a hairdo that is easy to manage and cute, so I ended up getting my hair cut short. I love it. It makes me feel younger, cuter and trendy.

When my husband and I started dating, I used to have long, thick hair—but I was not aware that keeping my hair long was "part of the deal." He feels I cut my hair purposely to go against what he wants. That sounds selfish to me. Isn't it MY hair?

SHORT AND TRENDY IN WEST TEXAS

DEAR SHORT AND TRENDY: You cut your hair "purposely to go against what he wants"? I wouldn't call your husband selfish. I would call him controlling.

Long hair can be lovely, but it does require time and care—not unlike a pet or a garden. If he can't understand that your busy schedule no longer allows you that kind of time to devote to yourself, that's his problem. Do not make it yours.

You are no longer the carefree girl you were when you were dating. You are a woman with real responsibilities. And it's time for your husband to grow up, too.

P.S. If long hair is some kind of "fetish" for him, offer to buy a long wig and wear it on special occasions.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a sophomore in high school, and I need help with something. I am a die-hard Christian who strongly believes in the whole "no sex before marriage" deal. All my old boyfriends have tried to take advantage of me. When I say I am saving myself for true love, they always dump me.

So here's the question: Do I tell the guy straight out that he's not getting any, or do I just wait until the subject comes up and casually mention it?

DEE IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR DEE: I see no reason to announce upon meeting someone that he "won't be getting any." Give the person a chance to know you, and while that is happening, avoid situations where you are alone and tempted.

When the subject of sex comes up, explain that you are saving yourself for MARRIAGE. It sends a clear message and is less of a put-down than saying you're saving yourself for "true love," which makes it appear he somehow doesn't measure up.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My 8-year-old daughter, "Romy," writes in a little journal that I bought her. She writes things like, "I love Blake," and "Me and Blake forever," and more. Can an 8-year-old really feel love for this boy? I always thought that girls her age didn't really care too much for boys. Am I making too much of this?

CONCERNED MOM IN OXNARD, CALIF.

DEAR CONCERNED MOM: Little girls don't fall in love like adult women do, but they certainly can develop crushes on boys. I remember one I had on a boy named Jimmy when I was in kindergarten. I "fell in love" with him because he could swing around a pole straight-armed, and I thought he was a brilliant athlete. It was the first of many crushes. So please stop obsessing. You have nothing to worry about.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HEY, SUSIE, CAN I BORROW YOUR BLACK CRAYON?
OK, BUT DON'T BREAK IT, AND DON'T PEEL THE PAPER OFF, AND COLOR WITH ALL SIDES OF IT SO IT STAYS POINTY.
GEEZ, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE OUT AN INSURANCE POLICY ON IT?
JUST DON'T RUIN MY CRAYON. WHAT ARE YOU DRAWING ANYWAY?
BLACK BEARS ATTACKING A BLACK FOREST CAMPGROUND AT MIDNIGHT.
GIVE ME MY CRAYON BACK.
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11/17

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I ENJOY EATING AND SLEEPING
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Text GARFIELD to 22646 US ONLY
DID I MENTION EATING?
YOU LEAD A FULL LIFE
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
JIM DAVIS 11-17

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

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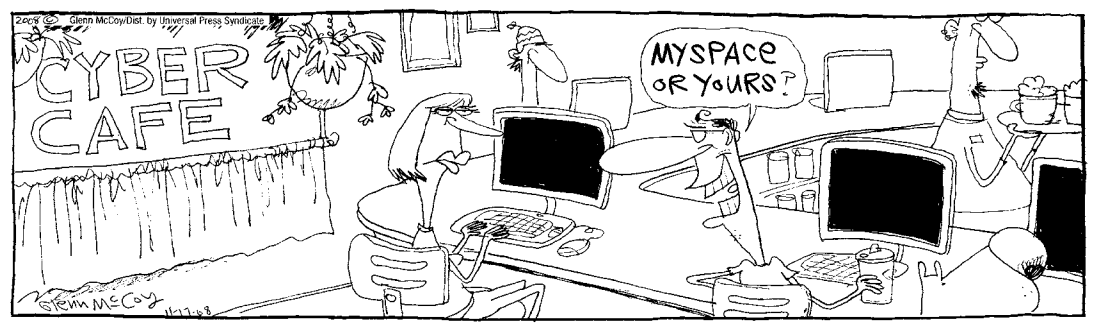
UNLIKE COFFEEHOUSES, DRINKING SONGS WORK IN PUBS AND TAVERNS BECAUSE THEY CAN BE NOISY and RAUCOUS PLACES, ADAM.
WHAT RHYMES WITH "GUATEMALAN BLEND"?
BRIAN BASSET
WWW.GOCOMICS.COM
11/17

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Donate
5 Floor cleaner
8 Sail support
12 Mideast gulf
13 First lady?
14 Reverberate
15 Approach
16 Quebecois, e.g.
18 Half a pair of winter boots
20 Teeny bit
21 October birthstone
23 Deposit
24 Southwestern saloons
28 Vegan's no-no
31 Lingerie item
32 Shy
34 Hot tub
35 Collections
37 Flour receptacle
39 Hostel
41 Con game
42 Sent packing
45 Grassy plains
49 Australia's capital
51 Audition hope
52 Bedouin
53 Where (Lat.)
54 Story
55 Depend (on)
56 Soviet spacecraft
57 Counterfeit

DOWN
1 Group of hoodlums
2 Notion
3 Osso buco ingredient
4 Establish
5 Garage worker
6 Eggs
7 Calligrapher's supply
8 Seance VIP
9 Severe trial
10 Carpet style
11 Coloration quality
17 Rock concert need
19 Skewer
22 Actor Lorenzo
24 Couric's network
25 Exist
26 Countrywide
27 "The Jungle" author
29 Gorilla
30 Paving material
33 Rotary phone feature
36 Persnickety
38 Intelligence
40 Born
42 Cicatrix
43 Tortoise's opponent
44 Conga, e.g.
46 Ark builder
47 Earthenware pot
48 Appear
50 Bat stat

Solution time: 24 mins.

■	J	U	L	E	P	■	E	N	D	S	U	P
A	U	R	A	T	E	■	L	I	N	E	R	S
S	N	A	P	A	T	■	S	T	A	N	D	S
K	O	L	A	■	U	S	E	R	■	O	U	T
■	■	■	Z	U	L	U	■	O	A	R	■	■
A	D	S	■	R	A	G	S	■	P	I	E	D
S	I	T	T	I	N	G	P	R	E	T	T	Y
S	P	U	R	■	T	E	A	K	■	A	C	E
■	■	■	B	Y	E	■	S	C	O	W	■	■
S	O	B	■	M	A	T	E	■	O	N	T	O
I	R	O	N	E	D	■	A	B	O	A	R	D
G	E	R	A	R	D	■	G	U	L	P	E	D
H	O	N	E	Y	S	■	E	S	S	E	X	■

Saturday's answer 11-17

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			17				
18				19		■	20					
■	■	■	21			22	■	23			■	■
24	25	26					27	■	28		29	30
31			■	32				33	■	34		
35			36	■	37				38			
■	■	39		40	■	41				■	■	■
42	43				44	■	45			46	47	48
49						50		■	51			
52				■	53				54			
55				■	56			■	57			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Isaac Hanson, 28; Daisy Fuentes, 42; RuPaul, 48; Danny DeVito, 64

Happy Birthday: There will be plenty happening this year with regard to your earning and financial power. You must avoid conflict but don't give in or get involved in things you don't agree with. Look at the possibilities and do not fear the outcome. Instead, work diligently, live in the moment and do your best and the result will surprise even you. Your numbers are 5, 12, 19, 21, 32, 35, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Rely on yourself if you want to get things done. Someone you love will have a hard time understanding what you want, so be patient. Put more time and effort into your financial situation—set a budget and stay within it. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Make the adjustments at home that will make your life easier. Don't put up with anyone who opposes your plans. Being stubborn isn't always a bad thing if it saves you from something that may cost you too much. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You can make an impact on someone with your clever play on words and ability to convince others to do things your way. Your style, high energy and sensitivity toward others will all contribute to your success. Use your imagination. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You need to do something different. An interesting partnership is likely to develop through someone you already know. Someone you've been responsible for will pay you back. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Prepare to compete for what you want. Don't allow your emotions to play tricks on you. Get all the facts before you make any sort of plea for help. The more conservative your approach, the further you will go. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You can count on getting the backup you require if you ask for help. Look past the obvious and you will recognize exactly what's required to fix a problem. Love and romance will lead to some surprising personal decisions. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't be fooled by someone who is complaining. Make an attempt to raise your profile and to advance. If you don't see a bright future where you are, look for a position that has growth potential. Overspending will lead to problems at month's end. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): It's up to you to find unique ways to jump-start your objectives. Conservative advice will pay off. Surprise everyone with your position on something that can shape your future. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't let your emotions cost you financially. Someone you want to impress may be demanding. Going over budget on a project you are working on will result in complaints. Don't let anyone hold you responsible for something that isn't completely your fault. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Everything will open up for you if you are patient. A positive, professional change appears to be coming down the pipeline. Show compassion and you will win favors. Good fortune is in the stars. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Focus on learning, picking up additional skills or making a move that will enhance your ability to earn more money. A change of scenery will spark new ideas. Contact someone from your past who is on your mind. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Put your thoughts out there for all to hear and you will get some interesting responses. Love is in the picture and a serious partnership will have new meaning and influence the way you do things. A social gathering with your peers will help you see things more clearly. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, nurturing and a serious friend and companion. You are full of good ideas and are an open-minded crusader. You are destined to be a leader.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9	8				6			4
		3	8		9	1		7
	6			4			8	
3	4						7	
		1		8		2		
	2						1	9
	9			6			5	
7		8	4		2	3		
5			7				4	2

Difficulty Level ★ 11/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	9	1	2	7	8	6	5	4
8	5	2	4	6	9	3	1	7
4	6	7	1	3	5	9	8	2
2	8	5	3	9	6	4	7	1
9	1	3	7	5	4	8	2	6
7	4	6	8	2	1	5	9	3
1	3	8	9	4	2	7	6	5
6	7	9	5	1	3	2	4	8
5	2	4	6	8	7	1	3	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/15

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MENUS **Solution: 9 letters**

S	E	S	E	E	H	C	E	A	T	I	N	G	S	L
L	N	S	C	H	S	I	F	A	S	T	O	T	A	L
U	T	O	U	B	W	O	D	N	I	W	H	E	L	O
N	R	O	I	T	A	P	H	N	L	G	C	E	E	R
C	E	R	S	T	S	D	E	C	I	U	J	H	B	E
H	E	N	I	W	O	R	O	L	A	L	C	E	C	Z
M	M	M	N	A	D	M	A	S	E	N	E	A	O	I
C	E	T	E	L	K	O	O	B	U	R	K	L	V	T
S	A	A	I	Ⓒ	Ⓗ	Ⓔ	Ⓕ	R	I	E	S	T	E	E
T	T	H	L	O	I	C	B	F	P	A	E	H	R	P
I	C	E	L	H	H	R	K	L	L	A	G	Y	O	P
R	E	D	R	O	O	Y	P	A	S	T	A	T	G	A
I	B	O	I	L	U	A	D	H	E	I	P	U	O	S
P	I	C	S	A	R	T	X	E	O	T	D	N	L	S
S	E	R	V	E	D	S	F	A	R	E	S	E	A	L

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Last Saturday's Answer: Pulsating

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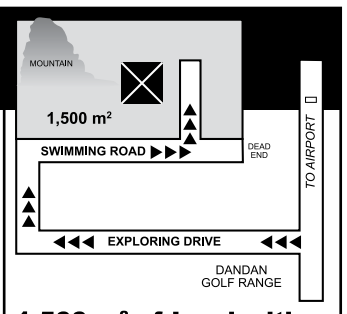

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Cavaliers extend win streak to seven

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James scored 38 points, leading a second-half rally that gave the Cleveland Cavaliers their seventh straight victory, 105-93 over the shorthanded Utah Jazz on Saturday night.

Mo Williams added 20 points for the Cavaliers, including a 3-pointer and a layup midway through the fourth quarter that pushed Cleveland's lead to 95-84, its biggest since the first quarter.

The Cavaliers are 6-0 at home.

Carlos Boozer led Utah with 17 points. The Jazz, in the finale of a five-game Eastern trip, were without starters Deron Williams and Mehmet Okur, and top reserves Andrei Kirilenko and Matt Harpring.

Despite those obstacles, Utah shot 53 percent in the first half and built a 62-52 lead early in the third quarter.

Cleveland, which is 8-2 overall and 6-0 at home, tied the game at 69 later in the quarter on Delonte West's 3-pointer and finally took the lead for good, 76-74, on James' two free throws with 30 seconds left in the period. That marked the Cavaliers' first lead since they were up 25-23 with 10:59 left in the second period.

Carlos Boozer, who led Utah with 17 points, is familiar with James' ability. He played his first two seasons with the Cavaliers before signing with the Jazz in 2004.

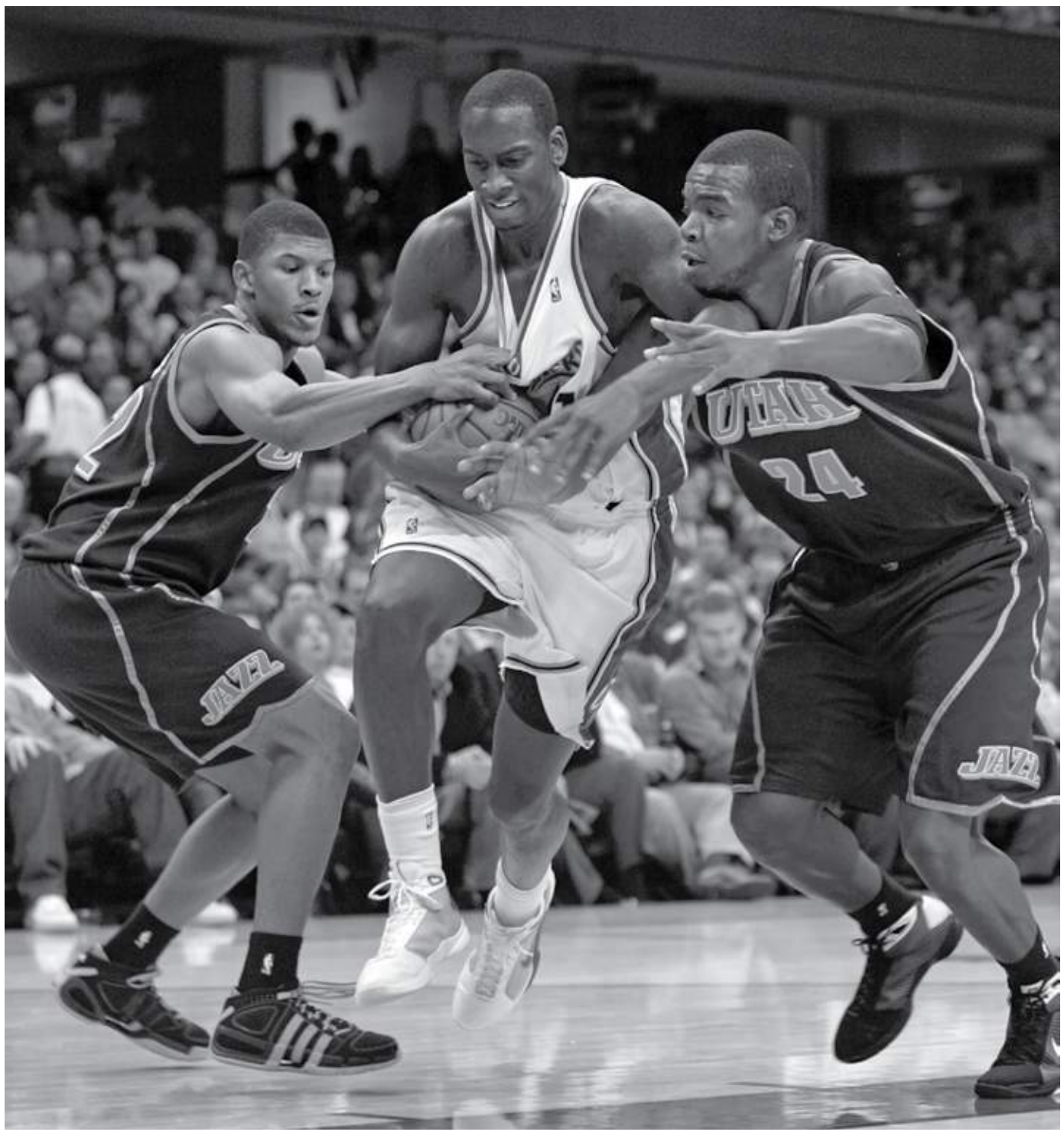
"In the fourth quarter, he just hit shot after shot," Boozer said. "He made his free throws and every jump shot he took stuck."

James' two free throws with 30 seconds left in the third put Cleveland ahead 76-74. He scored 21 points in the second half and was 13-of-21 from the field. James had five rebounds and seven assists.

Jazz coach Jerry Sloan refused to use the fact his team was so short-handed as an excuse. In fact, he admitted his younger players were intimidated by James' presence.

"We didn't even get close enough to guard him at times," Sloan said. "You have to compete against the guy. If you say, 'I'm not going to touch him,' you'll be saying that 20 years from now. You might as well get an autograph and go home."

Asked if his players backed down a little bit in guarding James, Sloan said, "A little bit? It was like we were afraid to even touch him. I think we fouled him once going to the basket."



AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' J.J. Hickson, center, tries to go between Utah Jazz' Morris Almond, left, and Paul Millsap in the second quarter in an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Nov. 15, 2008, in Cleveland.

Rockets 91, Hornets 82

In Houston, Yao Ming scored 21 points, Tracy McGrady added 18 points and nine rebounds, and Houston bottled up Chris Paul in a victory over New Orleans.

Paul, who came in averaging 22 points, went 2-for-10 from the field and 8-for-8 from the free throw line to score 12. He had 12 assists, but the Hornets shot 41 percent (31-for-76) and were outrebounded 41-35.

Luis Scola added 12 points and 10 rebounds for the Rockets, who led by 12 at the half and shot 53 percent (8-for-15) in the third quarter to take a 70-53 lead to the fourth. The Hornets couldn't crack Houston's double-digit lead until the final 15 seconds.

Celtics 102, Bucks 97, OT

In Milwaukee, Paul Pierce scored 28 points, Ray Allen added 27 and the pair accounted for all nine points in overtime, lifting Boston over Milwaukee.

Allen and Pierce were without the final member of the Big Three, Kevin Garnett, down the stretch after he fouled out midway through overtime, but still managed to give the Celtics their sixth straight win over Milwaukee.

Milwaukee, without leading scorer Michael Redd (right ankle) and Charlie Villanueva (hamstring strain), finished 1-for-11 in overtime after rallying from a 12-point deficit in the fourth quarter.

Nets 119, Hawks 107

In Atlanta, Devin Harris scored 33 points, Vince Carter had 29 and New Jersey beat Atlanta to complete a sweep of the two-day, home-and-home series.

The Nets lost three straight while Harris was out with a sprained left ankle. He returned Friday night to score 30 points in a 115-108 victory over the Hawks at New Jersey.

Harris, who made 13 of 14 free throws, has three straight games with at least 30 points. He set a career high with 38 points against Detroit on Nov. 7 before the injury.

Joe Johnson scored 31 points for Atlanta, which has lost three straight after a 6-0 start. Marvin Williams and Flip Murray each had 14 points and Al Horford added 12.

Warriors 121, Clippers 103

In Los Angeles, Undrafted rookie Anthony Morrow had 37 points and 10 rebounds in his first NBA start, and Golden State beat Los Angeles in the first meeting between Baron Davis and Corey Maggette since they switched teams as free agents this summer.

Morrow, who averaged 7.7 points as a reserve in his other three games this season, played 42 minutes and was 15-for-20 from the field. His total was the highest this season by a rookie, topping O.J. Mayo's 33.

Andris Biedrins had 17 points and 16 rebounds for his 16th consecutive double-double, the Warriors' longest streak since Nate Thurmond's 18 straight in 1971-72. Stephen Jackson had 20 points and 10 assists.

Davis finished with 25 points and 11 assists for the Clippers.

Bulls 104, Pacers 91

In Chicago, Derrick Rose scored 23 points and Chicago used a fourth-quarter surge to beat Indiana.

Rose scored 12 points in the third quarter, helping the Bulls build an eight-point lead, then used his quickness to help Chicago complete the victory in the fourth.

The top draft pick in the June draft, Rose has scored in double figures in each of his first 10 games—the first Chicago rookie to accomplish that since Michael Jordan in the 1984-85 season.

T.J. Ford led the Pacers with 16 points. Ford had a pair of baskets, one after a steal, as Indiana closed within two in the fourth before the Bulls took off.

Trail Blazers 88, Timberwolves 83

In Minneapolis, Brandon Roy scored 24 points, including a driving layup and a fast-break dunk that put away the game, lifting Portland over Minnesota.

Roy, who was originally chosen by the Timberwolves but traded for Randy Foye on draft night, also had five assists for the Trail Blazers, who got their first road victory over a Western Conference opponent this season.

Greg Oden added 13 points, eight rebounds and three blocks in 23 minutes for the Blazers as he works his way back from a sprained foot that kept him out for six games.

Al Jefferson had 26 points and six rebounds for the Timberwolves (1-7), who have lost seven in a row since an opening night victory over Sacramento.

76ers 110, Thunder 85

In Philadelphia, Thaddeus Young scored 23 points, Elton Brand and Andre Iguodala added 15 apiece, and Philadelphia cruised past struggling Oklahoma City.

Samuel Dalembert contributed 13 points and 16 rebounds for the Sixers, who won their third straight game to even their record at 5-5.

Jeff Green scored 21 points and Kevin Durant added 13 for Oklahoma City, which fell to 1-9 and dropped its seventh in a row. Durant, who was the Rookie of the Year last season, shot just 6-of-18. Russell Westbrook also had 13 points and Johan Petro grabbed 12 rebounds

LeBron believes Yankees will get Sabathia

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James is convinced CC Sabathia will end up in pinstripes.

The Cleveland Cavaliers superstar and New York Yankees fan wants his favorite baseball team to land Sabathia, the top starting pitcher in this year's free-agent class.

The Yankees have formulated a proposal to Sabathia that would exceed Johan Santana's $137.5 million, six-year contract with the New York Mets both in total and average.

Asked before Cleveland's game against Utah on Saturday night if he thought the Yankees would win the Sabathia sweepstakes, James smiled and said, "We're gonna get him. Absolutely."

Sabathia went a combined 17-10 for Cleveland and Milwaukee this season after winning the 2007 AL Cy Young Award.

James' attachment to the Yankees has been a controversial subject in Cleveland, a city where baseball's most storied franchise is very unpopular. James was criticized for attending an Indians-Yankees playoff game in Cleveland wearing a Yankees cap during the 2007 postseason.

James, who is under contract for two more seasons, could be facing a decision similar to Sabathia's. The Cavaliers can offer him an extension as early as July 1, 2009. There has long been speculation James will eventually end up in one of the NBA's larger markets. It's been speculated the New York Knicks and the New Jersey Nets will be among the teams that will make a strong bid to sign James if he hits the market.

James, who grew up in Akron, has deflected talk about his possible free agency and has said repeatedly his goal is to bring Cleveland a championship.

No. 1 Alabama rolls past Mississippi State

AP

Alabama running back Mark Ingram (22) dives in for a touchdown against Mississippi State in the second half of an NCAA college football game in Tuscaloosa, Ala. on Saturday, Nov. 15, 2008. Alabama won 32-7.

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP)—Javier Arenas ran back a punt 80 yards for one touchdown and set up a score with another long return, helping No. 1 Alabama roll to a 32-7 win over Mississippi State on Saturday night.

The Crimson Tide (11-0, 7-0 Southeastern Conference) didn't need a dominant offensive performance to turn back a team that had given 'Bama fits the past two years.

Kareem Jackson blocked a punt in the end zone for a safety and Leigh Tiffin kicked three field goals to help keep Alabama on track for a perfect regular season leading up to a showdown with No. 3 Florida in the SEC championship game.

Mississippi State (3-7, 1-5) had won the past two meetings with coach Sylvester Croom's alma matter. The Bulldogs, who were knocked out of contention for a second straight bowl trip, had also been the team to end Alabama's last regular-season reign over the rankings back in 1980 when Croom was a Tide assistant.

No. 3 Florida 56, No. 24 South Carolina 6

In Gainesville, Florida, Percy Harvin ran for a career-high 167 yards and two touchdowns, Tim Tebow accounted for three scores and No. 3 Florida handed Steve Spurrier his worst loss in 90 games at The Swamp.

The Gators won their sixth in a row, finished unbeaten in the Southeastern Conference Eastern Division and kept their national title hopes alive by beating the Gamecocks for the 16th time in the last 17 years. The 50-point drubbing was South Carolina's worst loss since falling 63-7 to Spurrier's Gators in 1995.

No. 4 Texas 35, Kansas 7

In Lawrence, Kansas, Colt McCoy burned the Big 12's worst pass defense for 255 yards and two record-breaking touchdowns and Texas stayed in the thick of the national championship hunt.

The win gave Texas (10-1, 6-1 Big 12) double-digit wins for the eighth year in a row. More importantly to the Longhorns' long-range hopes, the 28-point margin was similar to blowouts Kansas suffered earlier at the hands of Big 12 South rivals Texas Tech and Oklahoma.

No. 6 Southern California 45, Stanford 23

In Stanford, California, C.J. Gable made sure there wouldn't be a second Stanford stunner for Southern California. Gable returned a kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown and ran for another score.

Mark Sanchez added two touchdown passes and Stafon Johnson ran for two scores for the Trojans (9-1, 7-1 Pac-10), who had their season ruined a year ago when they lost as a 41-point home favorite, 24-23 to the Cardinal (5-6, 4-4).

No. 7 Penn State 34, Indiana 7

In State College, Pennsylvania, Penn State overcame a sluggish start to move a step closer to the Rose Bowl. Derrick Williams ran for one score and caught a touchdown pass, Daryll Clark threw for 240 yards and two scores in an uneven outing, and a stifling defense held Indiana to six first downs.

Heavy underdogs coming into Beaver Stadium, Indiana (3-8, 1-6 Big Ten) trailed just 10-7 at halftime in large part because of miscues by Penn State (10-1, 6-1). One drive ended after Clark fumbled at the Indiana 1, while Kevin Kelly missed a 40-yard field goal to foil another effort.

No. 9 Boise State 45, Idaho 10

In Moscow, Idaho, Jeremy Avery rushed for a career-high 156 yards and two touchdowns to help Boise State keep alive its hopes of returning to a BCS bowl.

Boise State (10-0, 6-0 Western Athletic) won its 10th straight over the Vandals, and also clinched at least a share of its sixth WAC title in the past seven seasons.

Boise State (10-0, 6-0 Western Athletic) won its 10th straight over the Vandals, and also clinched at least a share of its sixth WAC title in the past seven seasons.

Idaho (2-9, 1-6) trailed just 17-10 at halftime. Boise State scored the first four times it had the ball in the second half to blow the game open.

No. 10 Ohio State 30, Illinois 20

In Champaign, Illinois, Beanie Wells ran for 143 yards and a touchdown and Terrelle Pryor added another 110 yards, as the victory kept the Buckeyes (9-2, 6-1) in the chase for the Big Ten title.

It was also revenge for last year's 28-21 loss to the Illini (5-6, 3-4), which ended Ohio State's pursuit of a perfect season.

No. 12 Missouri 52, Iowa State 20

In Ames, Iowa, Chase Daniel threw for 328 yards and two touchdowns and Missouri clinched the Big 12 North and a spot in the conference title game.

The Tigers' opponent is still anyone's guess, with Oklahoma, Texas and Texas Tech all still in the mix for the South title.

No. 13 Georgia 17, Auburn 13

In Auburn, Alabama, Georgia's Knowshon Moreno rushed for 131 yards and caught a pass for a touchdown.

The Bulldogs (9-2, 6-2 Southeastern Conference) went ahead for good with 8:24 to play on a 17-yard pass from Matthew Stafford to A.J. Green and then stopped two late Auburn drives to seal the win.

No. 16 BYU 38, Air Force 24

In Air Force Academy, Colorado, BYU's Max Hall threw for 354 yards and two touchdowns.

Harvey Unga added two touchdowns in a 74-second span in the third quarter, helping the Cougars set up a clash with No. 8 Utah next weekend for a share of the Mountain West Conference title.

Maryland 17, No. 17 North Carolina 15

In College Park, Maryland, Chris Turner engineered a dramatic fourth-quarter drive that produced a 26-yard field goal by Obi Egekeze with 1:42 left in Maryland's school-record sixth consecutive win over a ranked opponent.

Da'Rel Scott ran for 129 yards and a touchdown and Davin Meggett had 86 rushing yards for Maryland (7-3, 4-2). The Terrapins can reach the Atlantic Coast Conference title game for the first time by winning their last two games.

No. 23 Oregon State 34, California 21

In Corvallis, Oregon, Oregon State edged closer to its first Rose Bowl appearance since 1965.

Freshman Jacquizz Rodgers and his older brother James each ran for touchdowns for the Beavers (7-3, 6-1 Pac-10), who won their fifth straight.

Because Oregon State defeated then-No. 1 USC 27-21 on Sept 21, the Beavers hold the tiebreaker for a Rose Bowl berth should both teams win out. Oregon State visits Arizona next weekend before hosting Oregon in the Civil War rivalry game.

Lyle Moevao completed 14 of 28 passes for 145 yards for Oregon State. Jacquizz Rodgers, the Pac-10's leading rusher, ran for 144 yards and a score while James Rodgers caught six passes for 50 yards and ran 18 yards for a touchdown.

Steelers likely to be sold to Dan Rooney

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Steelers chairman Dan Rooney and his son will likely buy a controlling interest in the team from Rooney's four brothers.

"It's not really (that) a deal has been reached, but we're coming along very well," Art Rooney Jr., one of the brothers, said Saturday.

"You're dealing with five people who are very private. There are a lot of ideas and nuances. We're moving in the right direction after all," he said. "There's still things that have to be worked out, but it's headed that way."

Dan Rooney was the only person interested in buying the team, which the brothers want to see remain in the family, according to Art Rooney Jr.

"That was a pretty big factor in this whole thing," he said.

Dan Rooney declined to comment on Saturday. A message left with his son, team president Art Rooney II, was not immediately returned.

Art Rooney Jr. would not confirm that he and brothers Patrick, Timothy and John Rooney would get about $750 million after business debt is subtracted.

That was the figure the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review reported on its Web site Friday night in a story about the probable deal. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported a price of $800 million.

Art Rooney Jr. was reluctant to name a price, saying it could change. The team has been estimated to be worth as much as $1.2 billion.

Each brother owns 16 percent of the team, adding up to 80 percent, with another Pittsburgh family, the McGinleys, owning 20 percent. Those shares are not being sold. The Rooneys' father, Hall of Famer Art Rooney Sr., bought the franchise in 1933 for $2,500.

At least three of the five Rooney brothers want to sell their equal shares in the team partly to avoid costly future inheritance taxes for their children and grandchildren.

"We're all hanging our hats that we get it done before the change in the administration," which could lead to higher taxes, Art Rooney Jr. said.

Another factor is the NFL rules that restrict owners' involvement in gambling enterprises, and requires that one person own at least 30 percent of a team. Some of the brothers own shares of racetracks that offer casino gaming.

The team was sold in 1940 to Boston investor Alexis Thompson, but Art Rooney Sr. back regained control of the team in less than a year.

All Schools swim meet Saturday

The Saipan Swim Club will be hosting the 2008 All Schools Swimming Championships at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool this Saturday.

The annual swim meet will feature students both from the public and public schools on Saipan.

Whispering Palms is this year's defending champion in the elementary division, collecting 225 points from last season's meet. Saipan Community School was second with 150 points, edging third placer Saipan International School by only a point.

The SIS Geckos dominated the junior and high school divisions, finishing ahead of Marianas High School, Ladera International School, Grace Christian Academy, and SCS.

SSC will conclude the 2008 season with the Annual Jingle Bell Run on Dec. 10. The race will start from Garapan Fishing Base to Susupe, near the former AJ's Restaurant.

For more information about the two events, contact SSC coach Michael Blasberg via email at MrB@CNMIBio.com or at mblasberg@gmail.com. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan International School's Cooper Graf is expected to represent the Geckos in this weekend's All Schools swim meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Alaska holds off SMB for solo lead

MANILA, Philippines—Alaska got an early Christmas present after taking the game that was supposed to be played on Christmas Day.

The Aces' defense held on when San Miguel Beer tried to mount a comeback as they posted a thrilling 91-85 victory to grab solo top spot Saturday night in the 2008-09 KFC PBA Philippine Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Joe Devance and LA Tenorio came up with huge plays in crucial moments when the team's reliable closer Willie Miller could not get the job done to survive San Miguel's uprising in the last six minutes of the contest.

"It's always a thrilling feeling when you beat a quality team like San Miguel Beer and the guys did a wonderful job on the defensive end," said Alaska head coach Tim Cone, whose team controlled the game from start to finish.

"To beat San Miguel, all the five guys on the court must play alert defense and tonight, we achieved that," Cone added.

Miller finished with 20 points but was held to just a single point in the fourth period. The two-time MVP also committed seven of the team's 24 turnovers in the game.

Luckily for the Aces, Tenorio and Devance were in their elements and showed poise down the stretch to escape with the victory.

Tenorio added 18 points and eight assists while Devance chipped in 15 markers, including a crucial putback off the missed jumper by Miller.

Alaska was comfortably ahead at 84-72 with 4:52 mark when Lordy Tugade and Olsen Racela fired back-to-back three-pointers that started a 10-0 blitz to move within two, 82-84, with 1:19 left in the game.

But Devance delivered the dagger as he followed up Miller's 15-foot jumper to make it 86-82.

Anthony Washington's three-pointer rimmed out in the next play and Tony de la Cruz was sent to the free throw line by Custodio for a split to make it an 87-82 lead with 35.7 ticks remaining.

Tenorio added a split after Washington was whistled for a technical foul for second motion, 88-82.

Dondon Hontiveros drilled a three-pointer to threaten anew at 85-88, 25.3 seconds left. After a split by Miller, 84-88, San Miguel had another chance to move closer but Washington lost control of the ball.

"This game was supposed to be played on Christmas Day but because of the Singapore game, they had to move it earlier and I thought this was an early Christmas present for us," said Cone.

Custodio had a career-high 20 points for the Beermen while Hontiveros chipped in 16.

Dorian Pena added 12 markers while Lordy Tugade had a quiet game with 11 and was 4-of-10 from the field. Washington chipped in 10 but was 0-of-5 from behind the arc.

Roach: No 'weighty' issues for Pacquiao

MANILA, Philippines—Even as Manny Pacquiao is on a diet plan that his handlers hope will minimize Oscar De La Hoya's size advantage, the Filipino ring icon's trainer still believes that speed will matter more when the "Dream Match" between the two fighters takes place on Dec. 6 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

"We didn't do any weightlifting to make him bigger because I believe speed wins this fight," American trainer Freddie Roach told Michael David Smith of www.boxing.fanhouse.com.

"We have him on a diet with a lot of protein to keep his weight stabilized," Roach said. "He's been about the same weight in camp. His body fat is 6 percent and his weight is really good."

Pacquiao currently weighs 151 lb and Roach is confident of the boxer making the 147-lb limit of the fight billed as the biggest face-off of 2008. Roach expects De La Hoya to come in at around 160 lb during fight night after rehydrating after the weigh-in—although that may seem like a problem right now for the Golden Boy.

Nacho Beristain, one of the think-tanks in Team De La Hoya, told Smith that De La Hoya has dipped to 146 lb as he trains at the Big Bear camp in California.

That has forced the Golden Boy's team to flood his diet with carbohydrates in an effort to get him back up to 150. That means at this stage of their training, Pacquiao actually weighs a pound heavier than De La Hoya.

Roach told Smith that Pacquiao has learned to handle the difference in size by consistently sparring against bigger guys and feels that his ward's overwhelming edge in hand speed will decide the bout.

"He's handling the bigger sparring partners well," Roach said. "When I saw how he handled the bigger sparring partners, I was very pleased."

"I think speed wins this fight, not size. It's not an issue at all." ***(PDI)***

DARK

From Page 28

But Esdrelon answered with his own triple to cut the lead to a hair, 102-103, with less than a minute left in the game.

Cruz found the Light All-Stars' defense napping in the ensuing play, passing the ball to Kae Bernardo, who was free underneath the basket.

Esdrelon missed a floater on the other end, but the Dark All-Stars failed to control the rebound giving Esdrelon another chance to go up for a shot. This time, Esdrelon made a triple from the left baseline tying the game at 105-all, with 36 seconds left in the game.

Cadagat took matters in his owns hands, anew when he asked for a clear out. He escaped past Wowie Abuel and Alex Lauron for a floater from the left wing to give the Dark All-Stars the lead, 107-105, with 32 seconds remaining on the clock

The scores remained unchanged as both teams committed errors.

The Light All-Stars were called for a three-second violation on its offensive play. Itaas drove to the middle, but decided to kick the ball out to Lauron, who also had hesitations taking a long jumper. He hesitated too long that Itaas was caught staying in the paint beyond the allowed time.

With three seconds left in the match, the Dark All-Stars inbounded the ball from the right sideline of their frontcourt and committed a backing violation when Estolas passed the ball to Sonny Lerio, who was on the Light All-Starsí court.

The Light All-Stars regained possession in the last two seconds of the game, but failed to make a decent shot. Itaas' inbound pass to Esdrelon was tapped by Cadagat with a second remaining on the clock.

Itaas inbounded the ball anew and threw the ball to Esdrelon, who was at the right left corner of the court, and fumbled first once he received the pass before attempting for a triple.

Cadagat was named All-Star MVP with his 22 points, making 11 in the payoff period.

Cruz led all scorers with 28 markers.

Marvin Deocares coached the Dark All-Stars, who were also composed of Banjo Basila, Badong Camacho, Melvin Villarin, Melvin Capalad, and Leo Factor.

Dark All-Stars 107—Cruz 28, Cadagat 22, Estolas 12, Camacho 12, Factor 10, Bernardo 8, Lerio 7, Capalad 4, Villarin 2.

Light All-Stars 105—Palero 17, Montano 15, Esdrelon 14, Abuel 14, Vinas 12, Delos Reyes 8, Guiab 6, Itaas 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-33, 50-59, 79-all, 107-105.

EVENFLOW

From Page 28

over the Oakies.

The Oakies drew first blood taking the opening set, 16-8. The Soul Rebels recovered in the second set with a 16-3 triumph to take the lead, 24-19.

But the Soul Rebels failed to sustain their momentum in the third set, which the Oakies won, 15-8, to regain the lead, 34-22.

A 15-9 win in the fourth set allowed the Soul Rebels to nail a juiced-out victory.

Action in the rocball league will continue this Saturday with teams to be booted out of the tournament if they absorb their third loss.

Twelve teams are competing for this year's championship. The list also include Islanders, Uraiwak, FSM Boys, Prims, and the Fanians.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	9	2	.818	_
New York	6	3	.667	2
Philadelphia	5	5	.500	3 1/2
Toronto	4	4	.500	3 1/2
New Jersey	4	5	.444	4

Southeast Division

Atlanta	6	3	.667	_
Orlando	6	3	.667	_
Miami	5	4	.556	1
Charlotte	3	5	.375	2 1/2
Washington	1	6	.143	4

Central Division

Cleveland	8	2	.800	_
Detroit	7	2	.778	1/2
Chicago	5	5	.500	3
Milwaukee	5	6	.455	3 1/2
Indiana	4	5	.444	3 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Houston	6	4	.600	_
New Orleans	5	4	.556	1/2
San Antonio	3	5	.375	2
Memphis	3	7	.300	3
Dallas	2	7	.222	3 1/2

Northwest Division

Portland	6	4	.600	_
Utah	6	4	.600	_
Denver	5	4	.556	1/2
Minnesota	1	7	.125	4
Oklahoma City	1	9	.100	5

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	7	1	.875	_
Phoenix	7	3	.700	1
Golden State	4	6	.400	4
Sacramento	4	6	.400	4
L.A. Clippers	1	8	.11	6 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Golden State 121, L.A. Clippers 103
New Jersey 119, Atlanta 107
Philadelphia 110, Oklahoma City 85
Cleveland 105, Utah 93
Portland 88, Minnesota 83
Chicago 104, Indiana 91
Houston 91, New Orleans 82
Boston 102, Milwaukee 97, OT

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Budweiser Softball Standings

Men's Division

Freedom Air	3	0
DCCA	3	0
Legislature	3	0
Beach Boys	2	0
CPA	2	0
Law & Order	2	1
Joeten Motors	2	1
DLNR	1	1
P & S	1	1
Saipan Cell	1	1
No Zone	1	1
CHC	1	1
PSS	1	2
CUC	1	2
DEQ/CRM	1	2
POI	1	2
PIC	0	3
Customs	0	2
Mayors	0	2
Hopwood	0	3

Women's Division

NMC	2	0
DCCA	2	1
Finance	1	2
CUC	0	1
CHC	0	1

San Miguel Caging Standings

Century Insurance	5	1
MIGS	5	1
Diamond Auto Care	3	3
C&R/NRG	3	3
Olivos/Realiance	2	4
Aon Insurance	2	4
San Miguel Light	1	5

The Week in Sports

Team, individual champs crowned

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members and supporters of Brotherhood pose with their pennant and championship trophies after ruling the men's division of the 2008 Belau Amateur Softball Association Softball League champions at Dandan Elementary School Ballfield last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members and supporters of Sakudi pose with their pennant and championship trophies after ruling the women's division of the 2008 Belau Amateur Softball Association Softball League at Dandan Elementary School Ballfield last week.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Five teams and seven individuals went home with championship trophies last week after ruling their respective competitions.

First on the list was Brotherhood, which topped the men's division of the 2008 Belau Amateur Softball Association Softball League at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

Brotherhood prevailed over Man Amigos in the best-of-three title series, winning Games 1 and 3.

Brotherhood's Jerry Ayuyu was named Finals MVP making two homers in the deciding Game 3. Ayuyu's teammate—J.J. Laniyo—won the regular season MVP plum.

In the women's division, Sakudi defeated the Hitters, also in a best-of-three title showdown. Sakudi also claimed Games 1 and 3 to take the women's championship.

Sakudi pitcher Bego Camacho was adjudged Finals MVP, while teammate Jenny Palacios took the regular season MVP honors.

In the ongoing Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League at CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan, Century Insurance gained the pennant championship.

Century secured the pennant after winning its rain-suspended game against C&R/NRG in overtime, 104-96.

Century finished the regular season tied with MIGS with its 5-1 record, but the former won the tiebreak having beaten the latter in their lone meeting in the regular season, 98-94.

The pennant champion automatically notched a semis ticket in the annual caging, which will begin its playoffs this Saturday.

Acme Roofing also took the pennant in the 2008 Miller Lite Four-Person Beach Volleyball Fall League with its 10-0 record in the regular season and capped its campaign in the annual event with a 15-21, 21-17, 15-10 win over Enyophace in the finals.

Acme Roofing was composed of Larry Sheri, Jazz Roscow, Luther Taylor, Elizabeth Henke, Jeanni Brown, and Dana McFadden. Also on the team, but did not play in the finals were JR Ngeskebei and Rob Jordan.

In the Philippine Bowling Association-Budweiser Saturday Night League, which finished early this month, PTI received its championship trophy last week.

The team was composed of Ramir De Leon, Mindy Taitano, Ronald Fuellas, Ronald Epan, Bernard Paraiso, Richie Dumlao, and Roger Vales.

PTI prevailed over Fiesta Resort & Spa, Gigi's Angels, Scrambled Eggs, and Teax X.

Seven individuals duplicated five teams' feats last week.

Golfer Vince Attao was one of them besting 28 other participants in the Rotary Club of Saipan's 2008 District Governor's Charity Golf Tournament on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Attao carded a net score of 70.80 in the double peoria tournament to beat Yasu Irinaka (net 71) and former Superior Court presiding judge Ed Manibusan (71.40).

The six other individual champions crowed last week were CNMI junior tennis players, who put on a show in the 2008 Fall Classic Junior Tennis Championships.

The champions' list include Benjie Decena, Thea Minor, Christian Miller, Ilia Corella, Tammy Ackerman, and Kennedy Isuka.

Decena and Minor ruled the boys and girls' 18-and-under division, Miller and Corella prevailed in the 14-and-under age group, and Ackerman and Isuka topped the 10-and-under category.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Girls' 18-and-under champion Thea Minor, poses with NMI coach Jeff Race, right, and Lynn Knight of tournament sponsor Tan Holdings during the award ceremony for the 2008 NMITA Junior Fall Classic Championships at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Century Insurance's Larry Palero, center, loses the ball as he goes for a shot against Diamond Auto Care's Ronald Delos Reyes, right, and Junar Guiab during their game in the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

MARK RABAGO

Christian Miller goes for a backhand return against Rafael Jones during their title game in the boys' 18-and-under finals of the 2008 NMITA Junior Fall Classic Championships at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PTI players pose with their Philippine Bowling Association-Budweiser Saturday Night League 29th Season championship trophy last Nov. 8 at the Saipan Bowling Center in Oleai.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rotary Club of Saipan's 2008 District Governor's Charity Golf Tournament winner Vince Attao, center, is joined by district governor Nobu Shindo, left, and Rotary Saipan president Ben Babauta.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Larry Sheri returns the ball to Enyphace during their championship game in the 2008 Miller Lite Four-Person Beach Volleyball Fall League Thursday night on the PIC sand court.

Team, individual champs crowned

Five teams and seven individuals went home with championship trophies last week after ruling their respective competitions.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Cavs extend win streak to seven

LeBron James scored 38 points, leading a second-half rally that gave the Cleveland Cavaliers their seventh straight victory, 105-93 over the short-handed Utah Jazz on Saturday night.

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Dark All-Stars outshine Light

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Dark All-Stars' Bonbon Cadagat goes for a layup against the Light All-Stars during the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League All-Star Game Saturday night at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Light All-Stars' Larry Palero, right, and Kae Bernardo of the Dark All-Stars battle for the ball during the 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League All-Star Game Saturday night at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Dark and Light All-Stars put on show in the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League All-Star Game as the two teams engaged in a shootout and run and gun game Saturday night at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

In the end, the Dark All-Stars outgunned the Light All-Stars, 107-105, with MIGS's Bonbon Cadagat firing all weapons left in his arsenal in the last 1:20 of the game.

Cadagat scored seven of Dark All-Stars' last nine points in the remaining 1:20 of the match, while Jericho Cruz made several stops and assists to lift their team to a come-from-behind win.

The Light All-Stars led by as much as 13 points in the first quarter, 33-20, but started losing control of the game in the closing minutes of the third period, as they missed one triple after another and committed many errors.

One of these turnovers was at the midcourt when the Dark All-Stars' Jericho Cruz pressured Elmer Esdrelon and grabbed the ball.

Cruz then passed the ball to Cadagat who was a few steps away from a Light All-Stars defender and made an uncontested layup putting the Dark All-Stars in the lead, 100-99, with 1:20 remaining on the clock.

Cadagat made it 103-99, when he canned a triple off a Jun Estolas screen from the top key.

See DARK on Page 26

Evenflow recovers in rocball league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Action in the 2008-2009 World Organized Rocball Community League resumed Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium with Evenflow regaining its form.

The defending champion lost its debut this season, bowing to the returning Ghasias Brothers in overtime, 76-71, last month.

The league took a three-week break giving way to various activities at the gym and allowing Evenflow to regroup and beat the Naturals.

Evenflow juiced out the Naturals, 67-39, winning all four sets of the game. The defending champion took the first set easily, 17-4. The Naturals gave Evenflow a run for its money in the second before the latter escaped with a 16-15 triumph. The third set was another easy ride for Evenflow, 17-5, while the final set was a tougher one, 17-15.

Two other games were played at the resumption of action in the rocball league.

No-Mercy and Section A played in the first game with the former routing the latter, 52-6.

No-Mercy showed its most dominating form in the second set when it nailed a 16-0 victory over Section A.

Myron Laniyo led No-Mercy's demolition of Section A firing 31 points. Laniyo had seven aces, five kees and three goals. Laniyo's 31 markers is the highest score yet made by a player in rocball's multiple points scoring system this year.

In the last game of the day, the Soul Rebels pulled off a come-from-behind 47-43 win

See DARK on Page 26

Legislature slips past P & S, 10-9

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Toi Celis is seen here at-bat in one of the softball tournaments on Saipan. Celis is playing for the Legislature, which won over P & S in the Budweiser 2008 Inter-Government/Business Softball League Thursday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Legislature extended its winning run to three after edging Procurement & Supply, 10-9, Thursday in the Budweiser 2008 Inter-Government/Business Softball League Friday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The Lawmakers capitalized on P & S's errors at the bottom of the sixth to improve to a 3-0 record and share the No. 1 spot in the men's division along with Freedom Air and defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

The Legislature had a 5-run bottom of the sixth and scored all its run on P & S's fielding and passing errors.

Second baseman Dennis Ngeskebei, catcher George Camacho, shortstop Toi Celis, centefielder Manny Villagomez and rightfielder Paul Lizama scored one run each for the Legislature.

With the Legislature seizing the lead, 10-9, after six complete innings, P & S must score at least one run to extend the game.

But P & S was done after only three batters.

Extra hitter Manny Iguel led off for P & S and was beaten to first base. Another extra hitter---John Tomokane—stepped upto the plate for P & S, but Legislature outfielder Bill Olaitiman caught his fly ball for the second out.

Legislature pitcher Perry Besong ended P & S's chances to extend the game when he struck out centerfielder Ton Reyes.

Both team struggled at-bat with the Legislature going 14-for-34 for a batting average of .411. P& S recorded a batting average of .352 after hitting 12-for-34.